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#1300

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special report: IS THE COMICS RECESSION OVER?

See page 6!

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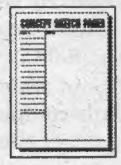

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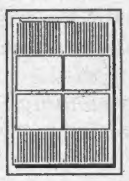

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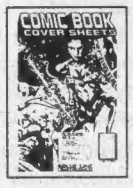

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This week in CBG

On the cover:

DC downsized its multiverse into a single universe in 1985's *Crisis on Infinite Earths*. Now as the company is poised to release a limited-edition hardcover collection of the groundbreaking maxi-series, ***CBG*** takes a look at the series, its creation, and its aftermath.

Your guide to 'Crisis' coverage

'Crisis' overview *by Brent Frankenhoff* **32**
Mastering 'Crisis' *by Matt Brady* **44**
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'Crisis' Badminton *by Brian Douglas Ahern* **96**

Plus! Check out this week's contest! The insert card to enter can be found between Pages 22 and 23. If it's missing, please contact our circulation department at the number or e-mail below.

Ask Mr. Silver Age by Craig Shutt **98**
Think you know all about Superman's early days? Take this true-or-false quiz and find out.

But I Digress by Peter David **122**
Peter has thoughts on Kara Zor-El.

The Mr. Silver Age Trivia Quiz by Craig Shutt **102**
Are *you* smarter than the Fans and the Pros?

Point of View by Mark Evanier **56**
Mark has an issue and stories about tissues.

Tony's Tips by Tony Isabella **70**
Tony celebrates 1,300 issues of ***CBG***.

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Meet you at the gift shop by the monument

When we come to a landmark, we feel inspired to look at the land around it. What's it like? Is it an attractive place to pause for reflection? Has the road leading to it been rocky, with only the hardy surviving the trip to get there? Has it been a slippery slope? Or have we faced little more than a stroll on a well-marked boulevard, with occasional pauses for a diverting cup of cappuccino?

This passenger car on the roads of our entertainment industry seems to have been part of an amusement-park ride. There have been slow, steady rides to the tops of a number of hills — and quick, stomach-churning plunges before the next slow, steady ride to the next heights. (Will Eisner repeatedly said at this year's San Diego con, "I've seen this industry die three times in my career.")

But, as Disney World compares to a county fair, the current comics world is a wonder of talent and technology, compared to what it had in 1983, when ***CBG*** became a typeset newspaper. When that happened in #482 — 819 issues ago — my late husband, Don, and I were blown away by the variety of opportunities to provide readers with more cool stuff than had been possible before. The height of technological supremacy in fan output prior to that had seemed to us to be the carbon-ribbon (correcting!) Selectric and camera-ready output.

☛ Landmark, amusement-park, and county-fair metaphors aside, comic-book collecting has come a heck of a far piece. With #482, people said we'd never get enough editorial material to fill a weekly newspaper, the typeset material (typeset! wow!) spewed out on galleys which had to be trimmed with scissors, waxed, and placed on layout templates. We didn't have a photocopier which would reproduce in anything but 100% size. And we had *one* color we were allowed to add to black for our Page One. (Our effort to get that color to vary each week took, literally, years.)

☛ More than 15 years later, the industry has experienced a bunch of ups and downs, new, exciting technology is here to stay, and — after an exciting plunge in business — the field is —

Well, check out what John Miller has to say about *that*, starting on Page 6.

☛ Many fans complain when the continued nature of the storyline confuses a new reader trying to get the hang of things. But we tend to do the same thing when we assume all our readers are familiar with the in-group terminology you'll find in every issue. Scott Brick's article in this issue should help on such terms as "retcon." And "reboot" comes via computerspeak for turning on a computer (a term which, in its turn, came from the science-fiction story "By His Bootstraps," which originally appeared in *Astounding Science Fiction* in October 1941 as by "Anson McDonald," aka Robert A. Heinlein).

Which reminds me to mention such terms as "aka" (for "also known as"), a term which not everyone is familiar with but which is common use in the world of comics, which is packed with alter-egoes. But I do digress.

☛ So let's take one more look at the landmark metaphor: When they come to a landmark, many tourists write their name somewhere on it.

And many, many people have done that on this landmark issue. You'll find their names in our articles, our letters columns, and our ads. And no one will come around to obliterate those names; they'll *always* be in this issue. What's cool about ***CBG*** is that there'll be *another* issue *next* week — and you've got an opportunity to put your name into that one, whether or not your name is here. And you can get into the next one, too. *And* the next.

Let us hear from *you*.

— Maggie Thompson

Note: Speaking of next issue, let me officially forestall spasms through the readership. There's a higher price on ***CBG*** #1300 — but only to subsidize a larger-than-usual editorial chunk. (It went unsubsidized last year in #1249, and we can't perform *that* trick twice. Ouch.) At any rate, we return to normal ratios next week, and the cover price goes back to $2.95. See you then.

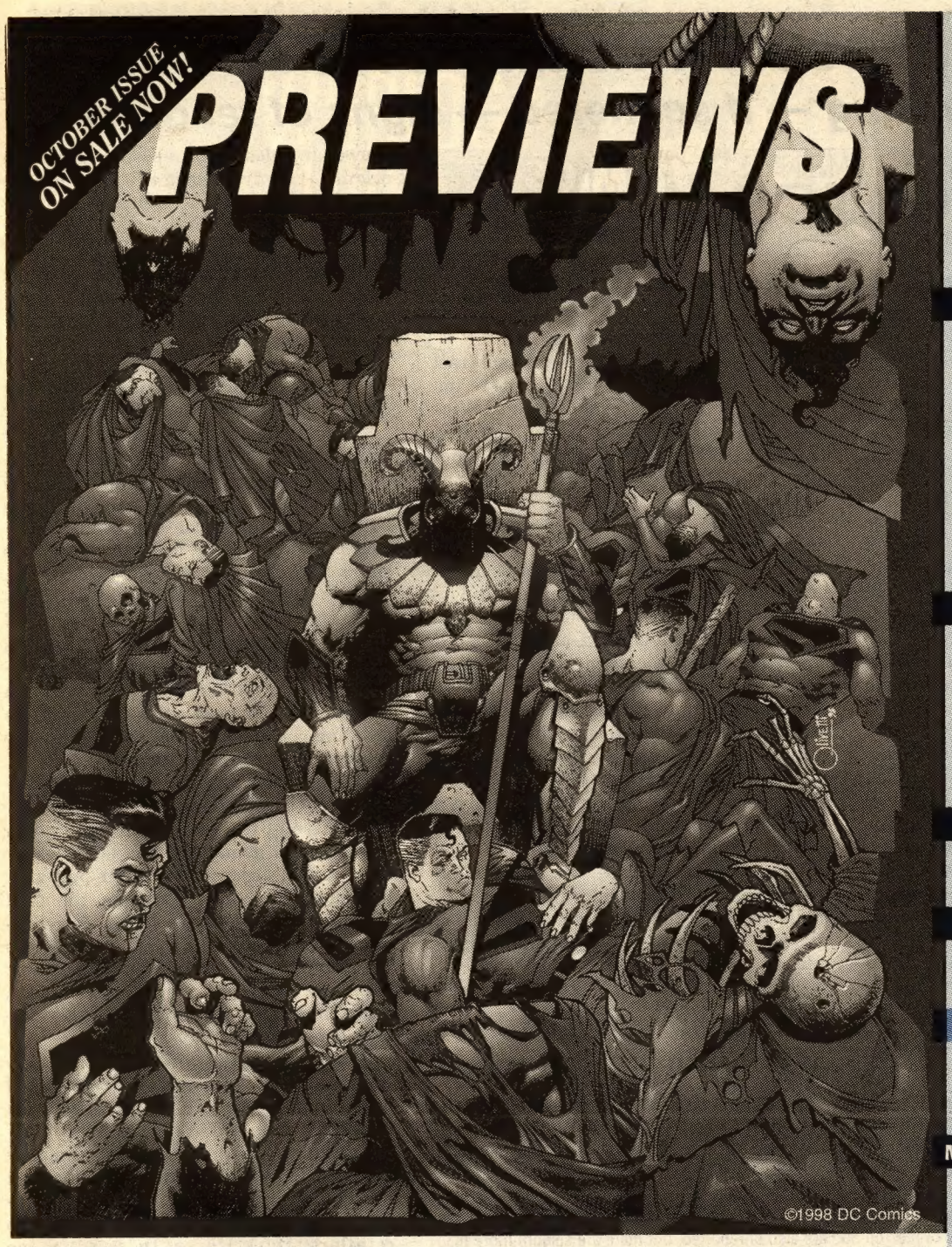
— Maggie

Oni Press Winners

In the two months since we announced our Oni Press Giveaway in ***CBG*** #1291 (Aug. 14, 1998), the entries have flooded in. The five winners of a raft of publications from Oni Press are:

Adam Savage, Anaheim, Calif.
Rick Fichter, University Park, Pa.
Gloria Coronado, La Puente, Calif.
Jim Hanson, Lake Peekskill, N.Y.
James N. Johnson, San Diego, Calif.

Congratulations to all our winners. Keep watching for more contests and winners, right here in ***CBG***.



The October Previews is here, filled with all the comic goodies you could possibly want! On the front cover, Superman's having a *really* bad day, thanks to Gog and **The Kingdom**! Around back, Image and WildStorm believe variety is the spice of life, as the **Cliffhanger** creators all contribute **variant covers** to each other's books!

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COMICS **Quinn and Vigil** return to their roots with Avatar Press' **Faust/777: The Wrath!**

Also:
- Awesome's **Coven** takes on new life as a **second volume** begins!
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CARDS As the ninth **Trek** film hits theaters, Fleer is there with **Star Trek: Insurrection Movie Cards!**

GAMES **It had to happen:** Wizards of the Coast unleashes the **Pokemon Card Game!**

VIDEOS

MERCHANDISE Luke Skywalker takes a dip in the ***Previews* Exclusive Luke in Bacta Tank Statue Diorama!**

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Is the comics recession finally over?

Five years after the crash, promising — if scattered — signs of recovery

Analysis by **John Jackson Miller**
***CBG** Managing Editor and*
***Comics Retailer** Editor*
With additional reporting by **Michael Dean**

Someone — sorry, we can't remember who — commented at the ***CBG*** booth in San Diego, "Opinion lags events in comics by six months. The market could turn around today and we wouldn't know it until January." True enough, in the last boom different sectors of the comics market peaked at various times between March and September of 1993 — but it wasn't until January 1994, when, by some reports, 1,000 comics stores vanished practically overnight, that the gravity of what was happening really set in for most.

But the signs were there earlier.

Now, five years after the crash, ***CBG*** can report some intriguing signs in the marketplace: cautious optimism on the part of retailers and publishers; modest, manageable growth in comics unit and dollar sales overall for eight months running; and more.

We've seen some of these signs before — and there's no desire on anyone's part here to seem a pollyanna. (On the contrary, we've been castigated from time to time for delivering the bad news — unfortunately, our jobs.) Positive trends found in previous industry surveys, however, have been isolated or unsustainable: ***CBG*** skipped doing its annual State of the Industry essay in 1997 because, basically, the factors hadn't changed — only the numbers were lower. This year, however, the weight of events seems worthy of bringing to the public forum for further evaluation.

The following analysis draws both on comments from insiders as well as research compiled by ***CBG***'s sister monthly magazine, ***Comics Retailer***. It presents some of the available evidence that things may finally be stabilizing or even turning around for the comics industry, as well as some of the problems still out there which could slow — or sink — any recovery.

State of the Industry – 1998

There's some hard numbers and technical material; there's some cultural issues and touchy-feely stuff. Judge for yourself if our observations jibe with yours — and, if so, how much significance should be ascribed to them.

Positive indicators

Sales of comics to retailers have picked up. Initial direct-market preorders for new comic books* bottomed out in February at 6.6 million copies (worth $15.7 million at full retail). It's been a bumpy road since, but a road leading gently upward — to September's initial preorders for 7.5 million copies (worth $18.2 million at full retail)†.

Examined another way: In 1997 preorder unit sales of comic books from Diamond Comic Distributors (and, until April, Heroes World Distribution) declined three quarters out of four. This year, the same statistic was off for the first quarter, but up the next two — and, between our early October preorder projections and the publishing schedule, signs for the fourth quarter look promising. Word from DC indicates sellouts on its "One Million" issues, and Marvel has reported sellouts on its "Marvel Knights" titles.

Once you add in reorders and subtract what didn't actually ship, the picture improves even more, said Diamond Vice President of Marketing Roger Fletcher. "Our August actual comics sales — not just orders, but actual sales — were the best month since March 1997, the first month since Marvel came back to Diamond."

Taken altogether, these orders suggest a market which may finally have found its own level.

"Rather than a crash, I prefer to call it an *extremely* long, *extremely* painful market 'correction,' like they call it on Wall Street, that may finally be completed," said Matthew High, five-year veteran of Antarctic Press and recent addition to Cold Cut Distribution's staff, who has independently performed a parallel analysis of Diamond's sales reports for several years. "We may finally be at a sales level at — or slightly below — the actual number of readers. Below, as retailers are finally realizing they're sold out of some of the popular books. But the rampant speculation is gone."

It's important to regard that the growth in sales we're reporting is growth *overall* — many ongoing titles continue to drop in sales. But their sales aren't being lost to the market entirely, but are going to new titles being offered. In the case of the larger publishers, new titles coming in at the top of the charts are helping them post a net gain despite losses in middle- and lower-tier titles.

Reorder activity may be fueling a recovery. Since Diamond only publishes indexed sales figures for initial pre-orders of comic books, exact levels of advance reorders and reorders are not public knowledge. In the past, this hasn't been of great consequence, since initial pre-orders made up *by far* the lion's share of comic books bought by retailers. (As late as Summer 1997, subtracting Diamond preorders from BPA International audited non-returnable circulation reports for two of the top three publishers revealed apparent reorder levels between 5% and 10% for most titles.) After all, reordering comic books cost extra — so low reorder levels made perfect sense.

Things seem to have changed. Retailers cut their initial orders to the bone over the course of the recession, many going below actual demand to the point where their initial orders cover their pull-and-hold customers only. For some, the shelf copies are mostly reorders. As a way of doing business in the direct market, this represents something of a paradigm shift: Many are willing to pay the reorder fees, if it reduces their risk of losses due to initial over-ordering.

Publishers began noticing the phenomenon last year, as complaints circulated that retailers were so conservative with their rack orders that comics weren't being given a chance. Limited returnability entered the public debate this spring, and publishers explored other options for putting more copies on shelves at less risk to retailers. Dark Horse, DC, and Image have either cut or eliminated fees for or-

(Continues on Page 8)

"In actual comics sales, August was the best month since March 1997, when Marvel returned to Diamond." *— Roger Fletcher, Diamond Comic Distributors*

* Indexed sales levels on direct-market pre-orders are published by Diamond monthly for its Top 300 comic books of the month. ***Comics Retailer***, using actual sales figures provided by publishers accounting for more than 20% of the list, generates estimated sales figures for all titles on the Diamond chart each month, its estimates having a margin of error of less than 1%. Uncounted in these figures are reorders, backlist, newsstand, and direct-from-publisher sales. Titles out of the Top 300 are also unreported, but there are seldom more than 150 of those that actually ship — and we estimate the 301st place title currently has sales under 2,000 copies.

† Trade paperback and graphic novel sales cannot be exactly determined from current data, but sales of new books could be adding more than $3 million monthly to the total.

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State of the Industry – 1998

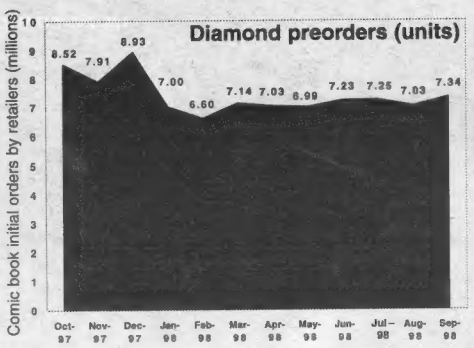
From Page 6

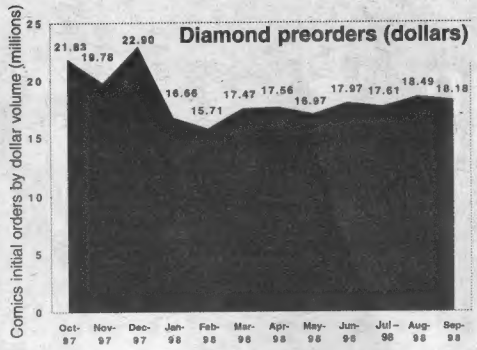
der increases or advance reorders, and DC charges no fees for reorders.

As 1998 has progressed, several publishers have realized reorder levels much higher than normal on key titles. Reorder traffic on Image's *Danger Girl* #1 was so enormous that some retailers complained the publisher deliberately refused to print enough to meet reorders — ostensibly to enhance its collectibility. (It wasn't so; what publisher is willing to turn down a sale up front?) Awesome has reported that *half* of all orders on *Fighting American* #1 were reorders; just a quarter would have been extraordinary. Other, smaller publishers have reported to ***CBG*** reorder levels a good deal higher than what they're accustomed to.

"Diamond reorders are easily running 20% to 25% ahead of what they were last summer, Fletcher said.

With reorders today representing more than just a marginal addition to retailers' preorders, the true direct-market orders for September 1998 could be not just higher than 7.5 million copies preordered, but *significantly* higher.





After the blip caused by ***Darkness*** *#11 in December, comics initial orders from retailers bottomed out in February, according to* ***Comics Retailer****'s calculations. Diamond reports that once reorders are added and unshipped comics are subtracted out, August 1998 is higher on the dollar chart than anything since March 1997.*

Retailers' financial confidence seems higher. If retailers are finding that a strategy heavy in reorders is unable to meet demand in their stores for certain titles, the demonstration of that should be in increased *initial* orders for those titles. We've seen some of that — both in the modest increases in preorders this summer and in individual cases. (Preorders on *Battle Chasers* #3-5 skyrocketed, once retailers had time to adjust to demand.)

More compelling, perhaps, is what they're saying. ***Comics Retailer*** polls retailers about their sales every month but also asks general, open-ended questions at the end of every sales season. Asked to assess their business performances this summer, however, the results were a lot different than in past years: A majority of retailers — some of them cautiously and many of them incredulously — said things were OK.

And improving.

"The entire summer has been solidly up," said Jeremy Shorr, owner of Titan Comics in Dallas. "July was the best month we've ever had." Sales were "up 12% over the summer," said Jim McCauley, owner of Jimmy Jams in Winona. Minn. "And that's in a college town." Comics sales were "better than the last three years" at Mile High Comics in Denver, according to Manager Reece Bennett.

The positive responses did not appear to be limited to one part of the country — or the business. "We had around a 25% increase in comics sales," said Les Bowman, owner of The Gamer's Den in Washington, Mo. "I was very surprised, especially in the back-issue area."

The reasons reported were varied and not always related to what's coming from publishers. "Two local stores have closed over the past few months, increasing sales dramatically," said Dewayne Chase, owner of Dewayne's World in Kingsport, Tenn. In fact, many retailers nationwide report the contraction in stores — which appears to have levelled off somewhat — as a contributing factor to their current success.

Others moderated their optimism with improvements yet needed. "Sales are better, although there's been a whole truckload of missed opportunities with comics and merchandise items habitually shipping late," said David Currie of American Dreams Comics, Bath, United Kingdom. "We get people fired up about product and constantly take the flak for late arrivals."

It's by no means unanimous. Some of those who reported negative results were *quite* negative. But some of the words now on the street are ones that haven't been heard in several years.

Retailers' psychological confidence seems higher. Perhaps the signs with the greatest long-term significance aren't related to retailers' wallets. The November issue of ***Comics Retailer*** (#80) reports the results from a survey in which retailers were asked to assess their satisfaction with various parts of their jobs. Not surprisingly, most retailers said they were not fully satisfied with the financial rewards extracted from their businesses, especially in relation to the amount of work involved. But most retailers also reported satisfaction with the intangible rewards associated with their jobs — the joy of working with comic books — and said those rewards were more than worth the effort involved.

Finally, when asked to describe how they perceived their careers, more than two thirds chose to call their stores "final

(Continues on Page 10)

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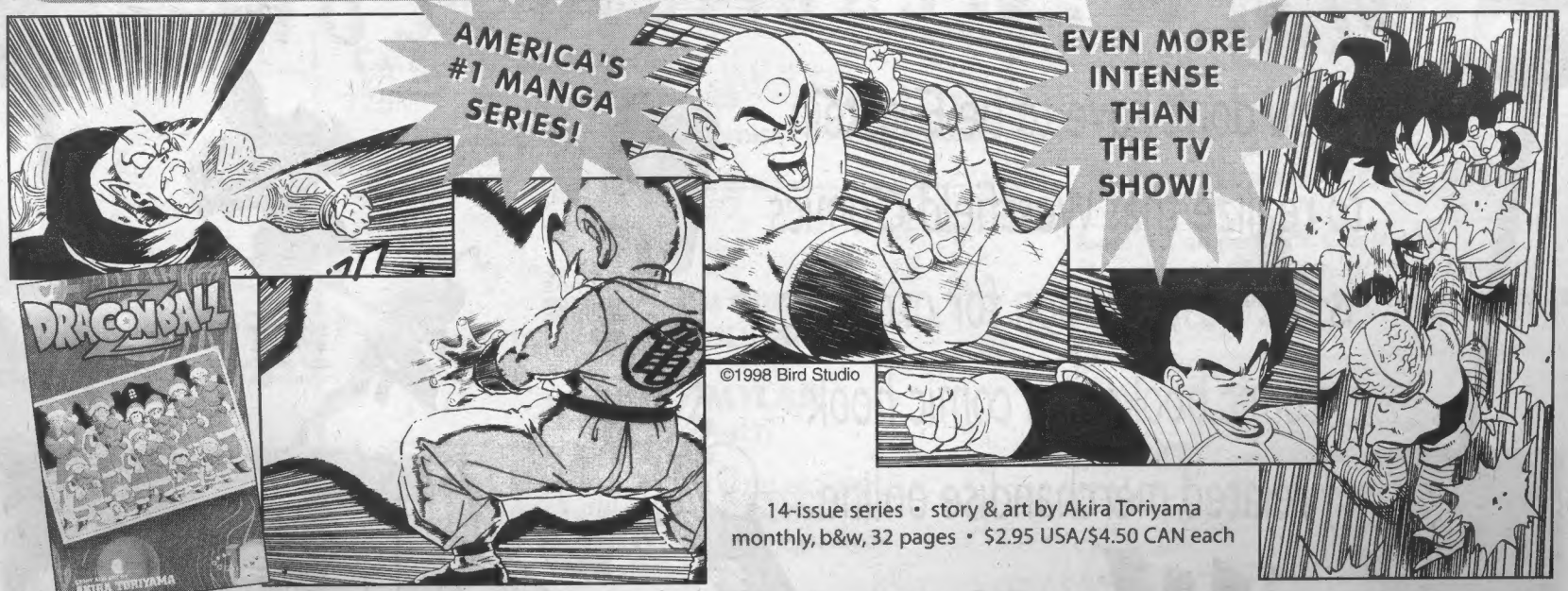

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State of the Industry – 1998

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career destinations in life," as opposed to less than 11% who described their shops as "just a job." Unlike the height of the boom — when almost everybody probably knew one retailer who saw his or her comics store as a stepping stone to comics publishing, distribution, or something else entirely — the average level of commitment today seems higher. After five years of recession, the only people left are the ones who truly want to be here.

No one title or publisher is driving the market. Unlike 1997, when the really good months were caused by a few big events (*Superman* #123, *Darkness* #11, "Heroes Return") — publishers in 1998 have given readers a greater variety of moderate-to-high-interest products, and spread them out more evenly.

Image's Cliffhanger titles, DC's "skip-week" events, Marvel's relaunches and experiments such as "Marvel Knights" and "M2," alternative successes such as *300* and *Jay and Silent Bob:* All are bringing readers into stores and — with the exception of those retail-nightmare weeks when everything ships at once — most are leaving with them.

"This year's rack sales are up, thanks to the releases from Cliffhanger as well as the 'Heroes' Reborn' titles from Marvel and prestige-format comics from DC," said Eddie Doria, co-owner of Red Nails II in North York, Ontario.

It's been said the healthiest possible recovery for the comics industry wouldn't come from a single explosive product or phenomenon — like *Teenage Mutant Ninja* clones or cover enhancements — but from the multilateral efforts of a host of publishers. This summer, at least, that seems to have been what we got.

Summer convention turnout seemed promising. Numbers from the conventions are often elusive and not very illustrative, but many industry observers who've done a lot of shows were favorably impressed by the traffic at this summer's shows, particularly Chicago and San Diego. (In fact, going by the numbers, ***CBG*** had more traffic at its booth in San Diego than in any of the previous four years.)

It wasn't uniform day-to-day, either for conventions — Independence Day was slow for Heroes Con in Charlotte — or their dealers, who often reported widely varying experiences. It's also unclear how comics conventions are adjusting to the increasingly expensive economics of show promotion. (Some reports question whether the previous two years' Chicago conventions made money at all).

But if major demographic shifts are happening, conventions ought to be one of the first places to see it. Even Gen Con, flagship of a beleaguered gaming industry, had record attendance with an influx of younger attendees this August — brought by parents in their 30s and 40s, once game fans themselves — and oblivious to that industry's current woes.

Comics have lately had to compete with relatively fewer distractions for customers' attention — and dollars. Every third newspaper reporter calling ***CBG*** after rediscovering comics has asked the same question: "Aren't comics getting clobbered by movies, TV, video games, the Internet, and all the other distractions?"

Our answer is usually the same, as well: "Sure, everything from network TV to the recording industry to Major League Baseball is suffering from fragmentation of the entertainment market. But that doesn't stop attention from returning when there's something interesting going on: Take baseball, this summer. And remember that the casual customers tend to migrate between various entertainment fields anyway, often with the effects of locusts, if not the regularity. The youngest consumers are frequently the most fickle, too: How many times have video games been 'in' and 'out' in their short history? At least the comics shop has the hardcore and older readers to fall back on until comics are 'cool' again."

Whether or not comics became "cool" again in the perception of the general public (and if anybody finds that thermometer, let us know), it's a safe bet that the summer of 1998 offered fewer distracting influences pulling customers out of shops than had been the case in previous summers. Several of the usual suspects:

• **Summer movie releases** that might have been expected to keep kids in theaters and out of comics shops underperformed, and it's hard to believe the movies that did stay more than a week at the #1 spot — such as *The Truman Show, Saving Private Ryan, There's Something about Mary* — sold many tickets to adolescents.

Whether those customers chose to spend their entertainment dollars at their comics shops or not, the comics industry is probably points ahead already just for having less riding on media adaptations and licensed products this summer than usual. With only *Godzilla* from Dark Horse and *X-Files* from Topps shipping, comics shops' negative exposure to blockbusters that didn't really materialize was minimal: no $6 *Small Soldiers* adaptations sitting around on shelves. Even Marvel's *Blade* releases seemed conservative, especially now, in light of that film's better-than-expected performance.

• **The gaming industry**, which kept many comics shops in business through the early part of the comics recession, has lately fallen on hard times itself. Unlike the comics industry's experience, where the collapse began at the retail level and echoed through distributors and publishers in turn, the shakeout in the gaming industry seems thus far limited to manufacturers and distributors. West End Games and Greenfield Hobby Distributors filed for bankruptcy protection this summer, and White Wolf, Steve Jackson Games, and other firms have recently cut staff.

What's this meant for comics sales? With less gaming product coming into

(Continues on Page 12)

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State of the Industry – 1998

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stores from certain manufacturers, it's reasonable to expect some of those dollars have been rerouted into comics — even as comics dollars were rerouted into *Magic: The Gathering* during that game's heyday. For example, until its bankruptcy this summer, West End was putting nearly $100 worth of *Star Wars* books in front of hardcore fans each month; those are dollars which Dark Horse has a shot at rerouting into its *Star Wars* periodicals and collections (with retailers' help, of course).

• **The World Wide Web**, which comics fans had discovered before most people, anyway, may have lost some of its novelty factor in a year that found users in most areas of North America logistically stranded at the same 33.6Kpbs speeds they were surfing at two years ago. (We all remember all the America Online disks that used to infest comics publications. Could AOL now believe that every comics reader who might get online already has?)

As for those websites in direct competition with comics shops, it's been a balm to retailers this year that the Internet, while helpful in generating some auxiliary mail-order sales for themselves, has largely not lived up to its hype as the way for publishers of the future to get comics — or comics content — to readers. It's ironic that what had been viewed by some as the perfect way for comics publishers priced out of the print distribution system to cut out the middlemen has been most effectively exploited by AnotherUniverse.com in its sales of variant-cover mainstream comics.

Instead, publishers distributing their comics exclusively via the Internet remain a marginal part of the business; there are no popular examples yet of anyone's site paying for itself, much less paying a living wage. And those creators putting their comics content solely on the Web are simply not on retailers' radar screens. "It's 'start a website and open your guitar case,' " one industry observer said. "One less title for the stores to take a chance on."

Price resistance may be lessening. Since *CBG* reported on the "price crisis" facing the comics industry in ***CBG*** #1104 (Jan. 10, 1995), cover prices on Marvel and DC's flagship titles have increased from $1.50 to $1.99. However, many expensive comics are no longer being offered to the market — more the result of enhanced covers going out of vogue than of alternative publisher cutbacks — keeping the average price of comic books retailers are buying for their stores fairly stable.

"The weighted average price hasn't changed in four years," High said, and ***Comics Retailer***'s calculations from the past three years support that assertion. ***CR*** calculates the price of the average comic book ordered by retailers from Diamond Comic Distributors in September was $2.44. In September 1997, the weighted average price was $2.45. In September 1996, the figure was $2.46 (with Marvel's sales from Heroes World added to the mix, $2.34). The average price of the typical comic book *offered* to retailers in September 1998 is higher, around $2.73 — but cheaper comics account for the bulk of retailers' orders.

There's definitely a preference among many retailers for less-expensive titles being available for younger readers. "Comics are pricing themselves off people's want lists," said Jim Raughley, manager of Marie's Books and Things in Fredericksburg, Va. "Kids can't afford the $5 and $6 comics coming out." But on the other end of the spectrum, retailers have continually rejected any comics with price points below $1.50 as too unprofitable to support their rack space. They may sell a few more, but not enough to make it worth the space.

Finally, and perhaps most significantly, **Marvel should emerge from bankruptcy protection within the month.**

Obviously, there are financial advantages associated with an infusion of cash, although it's too soon to tell how much more Marvel will be able to spend to promote and improve its line. Clues as to what kind of parent Marvel's one-time child Toy Biz will be are few and far between, but one interesting event came earlier this summer: Toy Biz tried to buy the assets of *another* bankrupt trading-card company, Pinnacle Brands, with the intention of fusing it with Marvel subsidiary Fleer/SkyBox — *which it didn't even own yet*. Observers of the sportscard industry (in which Fleer/SkyBox has made a strong comeback, despite being in Chapter 11) took Toy Biz' willingness to spend as much as $5 million of its own money to prevent a flood of cheap cards on the market as confirmation that Toy Biz is not buying Marvel as an asset to be immediately carved up and resold. "They're in business to produce," one observer said.

Other benefits to an end to Marvel's financial woes are more psychological. When the largest supplier in an industry seeks bankruptcy protection, it's often the end of the world. That Marvel was able to continue publishing uninterrupted during nearly two years as a hockey puck between financiers is remarkable; its imminent emergence from that state should provide an immense psychological boost to comics pros and fans alike. Sadly, it may not get half the mainstream press going out of Chapter 11 that it got going *in*.

There are other, ambiguous signs which might be taken as positive: Unlike previous years, 1998 thus far has seen fewer high-profile business failures. There have been retrenchments — Awesome, Acclaim, Topps, Image's non-line — but the principals in each case remain in the industry.

Negative indicators

And now, the caveats...

Since 1993, whole books have practically been written on what's wrong with the comic-book industry. There's little need to go into the entire litany here except to point out a few of the more likely barriers to a revival.

(Continues on Page 30)

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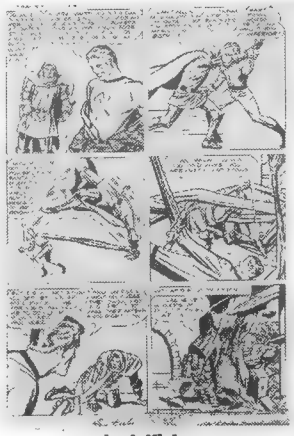

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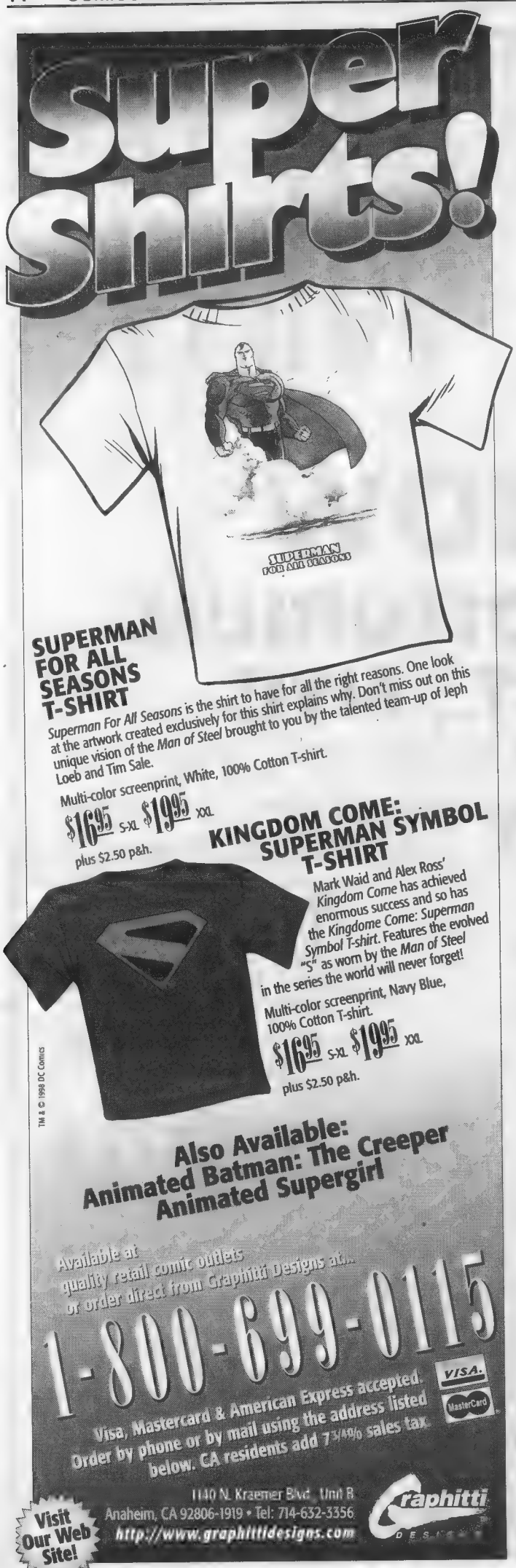

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Mark and Donna Rubin
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On Sept. 7, the comic-book industry was deprived of one of its biggest supporters when Morris Seitz passed away after a lengthy illness. For those who knew Morris, you could unequivocally state that he was an original. He was as rare as any comic-book character ever written about.

Before opening Comic Book Heaven with his wife, Irene, he had enjoyed success in such diverse callings as kosher food preparation, computer programming, the medical field, and the jewelry business. His broad-based intelligence and his unquenched thirst for knowledge made him a man you could converse with about any topic: economics, art, music, politics, sports, health, philosophy, and, of course, comic books.

And with the one exception of Irene, the love of his life, comic books were his passion. While watching his eyes sparkle and his voice resonate as he described his favorite comic book of the week, any comic-book fan would be hard-pressed to turn down a Morris recommendation.

We truly have lost a very dear friend in Morris Seitz. His integrity, his enthusiasm, and his humor will be greatly missed. He was always a great source of comfort in troubled times. We will never forget the first time we encountered Morris. He came into our store, introduced himself, and offered us some items for sale. Before we could accept or reject the offer, Morris said in his inimitable and direct way, "This is a fair offer. If we can do business, fine, and, if not, we will part friends."

Well, that was almost six years ago, and we are glad to say that we parted friends.

T. Hanlin
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Best of times? Worst of times?

For the investor-speculator, trying to make a quick buck off the current "hot" comics *du jour* and get out of the hobby, these may, indeed, be the worst of times. Dealing with essentially one distributor (Diamond), retailers unable to stay in business and still give deep discounts to customers, *etc.*, has got to be tough on the quick-buck crowd. With the roller-coaster ride the stock market is becoming, where does that person with money to spend for a quick return park his or her cash where it will give a relatively safe, liquid yield six months to a year from now? Not in comics.

For the rest of us, who are in this hobby because of our love for — or possibly even obsession with — comics and comics-related items, there are, indeed, so many nice things available out there to choose from, we are limited only by the size of our budgets. More great items are coming into fandom all of the time.

CBG in recent months has featured ads for some of the finest Golden Age and Silver Age comics for sale that I've seen for a long, long time. It's looking more and more like it's a good time to be a collector but a rotten time to be an investor-speculator. And for some of us who really love comics, that ain't too bad of a thing at all.

Mike Friedrich
Star*Reach
2991 Shattuck Ave., Suite 202
Berkeley, CA 94705

Charles Vess' question really rang a bell here. ("I hope that, as we get older, our world won't turn into one year-long benefit auction. We need to do something about this now — any suggestions?") There are too many artists in the country who feed our fantasies every day who themselves are living on the edge of disaster because they can't afford health care.

There is one solution available now, and that's to join the Graphic Artists Guild, which has an affordable health-insurance plan, and membership for low-income artists starts at $120 a year. The guild can be contacted at 90 John St., New York, NY 10038. It's open to all commercial artists, including comics artists.

A second solution is for all comics

(Continues on Page 16)

For Art's Sake — **By Chris Smigliano**

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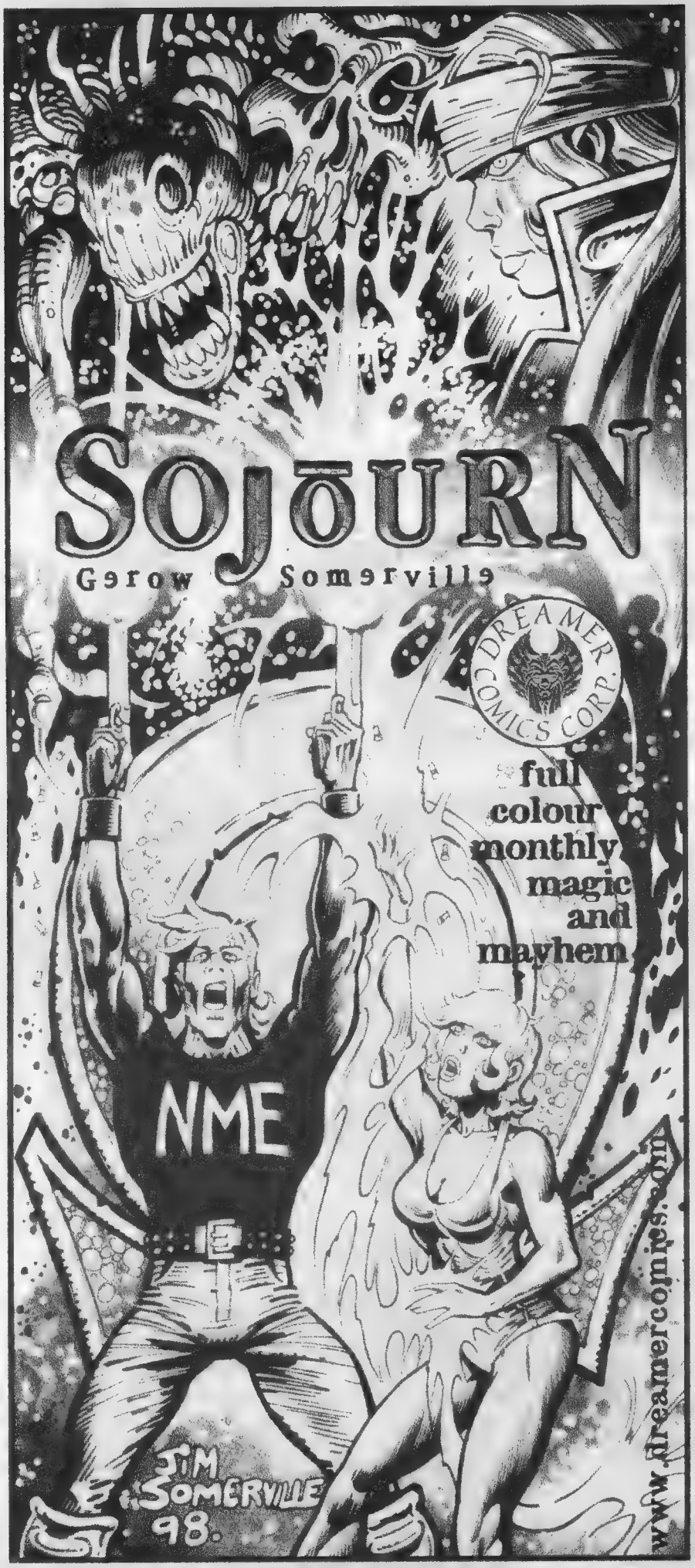

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artists to become Canadian citizens, since Canada has had the good sense to establish a "single payer" health-care system. Short of that, perhaps, we should insist that our Congress establish such a system here.

The sense of community that Vess experienced was shared by those who donated to the Karen Shaffer benefit. My hope is that we will all see that all of us in the U.S. are part of the same community and treat each other with the same love and respect shown Karen Shaffer.

[Have you a suggested solution for comics writers? Retailers?]

Bart Jarmusch
4201 Crosby Dr., #503
Knoxville, TN 37909

Last spring, I wrote about a flash flood that ruined my fiancée's apartment and, in the process, destroyed some of my comics collection. As I said before, my fiancée emerged unscathed from the event, but it was a pretty scary moment all around. I'm still in awe that she suffered no injury.

After a long summer of work and work-related travel, I've finally had time to sit down and collect my thoughts. First, I was amazed by the number of people who sent me comics. Comics fandom is a caring community, despite our depiction in *The Simpsons*. One anonymous soul even sent me a reprint of the Kirby New Gods tales that I lost. There was no return address, but I wanted to thank that person for the kind gift. I found a kindred soul who had lost a great deal of his collection in similar circumstances, yet still offered to send me issues I had lost.

The most generous offering came from comics professionals, who surprised me with their philanthropy. If nothing else, these tales should remind us all that the comics community is not simply populated by the obsessive-compulsive, but by caring people. I'm thankful this is so and will do all in my power to pass this lesson on.

I also have to thank Michael Berlowe of Toons and Beyond, who replaced most of my missing X-titles at unbelievable low prices. I don't know how he stays in business, but he sold me very expensive back issues at prices which were often less than today's cover prices.

As for us, my fiancée had to move to a gruesomely furnished apartment for a couple of months, but now we've combined our few resources to put together a decent home (on higher ground). While the experience was fairly traumatic for her, starting a new household has brought closure. Now, we're just hoping we can make it to the wedding without any further disasters, natural or otherwise!

Steven Fears
909 Lakecrest Dr.
Moore, OK 73170

Have you been to the post office lately? If you haven't been for the usual stamps and such, then you need to get back down there.

In celebration of Superman's 60th anniversary, the U.S. Post Office is selling a bunch of neat Superman items. I was standing in line a few days ago, waiting to pick up a package, and just happened to glance in the direction of a board that sells the Post Office collectibles. I was genuinely surprised to see a number of things hanging there with the big "S" on them.

I haven't had time to go back and buy all of those items, but I do plan on returning to get them. However, while there, I did purchase a sheet of the commemorative stamps of the decades. There are ten sheets in the series. The fourth sheet has a very nice Superman stamp, as well as stamps with the first issue of *Life*, Disney's Snow White, the Empire State Building, and some others. They are very, very nice.

Normally, I don't buy all of the Post Office collectible items, but I do plan on getting these. It's really nice to see them promote Superman, along with the 1930s, a time of many changes in our country. You won't find these things in your local comics shops. This may sound a little strange, but go do some shopping in your nearest Post Office. It's too bad that the Post Office couldn't have a Superman comics display. Perhaps they can't promote the sale of non-postal products or something like that, but go get those other things, anyway. I think I'll go back tomorrow.

[In fact, in the Iola Post Office, there's a counter display featuring the Siegel-Shuster Superman.]

Michael Hranek
266 Maverick St., #2
East Boston, MA 02128

After collecting for nearly 20 years, I have come to realize that my naive dream of one day completing a collection of all published comics will never come to fruition. Instead, like others who have recently written, I have discovered the bargain bin. However, my "bargain bin" is a bit different from theirs.

My strategy is to go back to the days of collecting by run. For Golden Age and, since 1989, Silver Age, this type of collecting has become nearly impossible to achieve in high grade. Instead, I look to series that are not so "hot" but are well-written and well-drawn.

So what series do I collect? How about *Captain America, Incredible Hulk, Flash,* and *Wonder Woman.* When I tell people this, most shake their heads and exclaim that these series are long and expensive. Well, I'll admit the former is true, but the latter is definitely not!

I have been collecting in this manner for only two years and have managed to complete all these runs. That is a lot of comic books: about 350 *Caps*, about the same *Hulks*, some 140 *Flash* issues (from the second series), and roughly 130 *Wonder Womans* (again, the second series). Is there any super-hero collector who would disagree with me when I say that, while not all of the issues are great, either in art or script, the runs as a whole represent a wonderful tapestry of creative talent applied to truly classic characters? Individual issues might be mediocre or worse, but, when a character's full run is considered in its entirety it is awesome.

I dare anyone to read *Cap* straight from issue #100 all the way through to the last issue, #454, exclusive of other reading, and say that they didn't have a good time. I can say this for all of the aforementioned titles.

As a true collector, I have kept careful records of prices paid, *etc.* This is the amazing

(Continues on Page 18)

LOVE STRENGTH CARING

These three words describe one of the greatest heroes we've recently lost.

Brigid Carbonaro passed away on September 16th, 1998.

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part. My total cost for approximately 1,000 issues of good prime reading material is just over $1,200 — $1.20 each. All in near-mint condition. This figure is even artificially skewed by the older Cap and Hulk comics, which in some cases cost $20 to $30 or more each.

The cost advantage is related to current collector ambivalence to mainstream '70s and '80s comic books. Think back to how many of these comic books were in the $1 boxes at the last few shows you might have attended. I have been able to scour these boxes and back-issue bins for the last two years with little competition.

Just over the last two months, I have started to collect *Batman*. I have been able to round up issues #400-510 for an average cost of 70¢ each — once again, all in near-mint condition. I can't wait to read them as a block. For me, this is collecting on a budget.

Taking this all into account means that I don't feel as if I have to leave my hobby, if I can't or don't want to spend the majority of my disposable income on comics. Some of those who have written recently about being priced out of the hobby might want to try being a little more creative.

Nobody is *forcing* anyone to collect anything. Our hobby offers a *tremendous* amount of product, both new and old, in the form of back issues, and quite a lot of it is available at very reasonable prices. Every comic book that is older than five years and priced at less than $2 ought to be re-examined. Not all of it is good, but more than a few are.

Try it.

I dare you.

[What I really enjoy about this letter is its basis in two of the foundations of comic-book collecting: the thrill of the hunt and the enjoyment of the story. Both clearly can still be a part of our world for those who want it to be.]

Dave Pfeil
1537 Route 212
Saugerties, NY 12477

Am I the only one who thinks Marvel Comics doesn't publish some of its comic books long enough for the series to find any kind of fan following — *Marvel Universe, Man-Thing, Werewolf by Night* among them. Comments, anyone?

P.S. I'm looking for pen-pals around my age (40).

Frank A. Parsons
15 Whitmore St.
Lexington, VA 24450

R.C. Harvey is a pen-pal friend from many years ago, and *Pogo* is a comic-strip friend of mine since Walt Kelly first appeared in newspaper comics sections. I hope I do no disservice to Mr. Harvey's splendid article, if I offer what I believe is a valid correction to a minor error.

On page 44, under the subhead "Pogo's Legacy," Harvey writes of Kelly: "He delighted in sight gags, slapstick, and word play, the latter giving rise to the comic perversion of a famous Christmas carol, when Kelly's cast rendered it 'Deck the Halls with Boston Charlie.'"

Actually, the Pogo words transmogrified "Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly" into "Deck Us All with Boston Charlie." Deck it — er, check it out. Hey — wait! No need! The 1966 daily strip at the top of Page 44 shows Pogo and Churchy trying to teach these words from the first verse to a new character, at least 15 years after they first were sung by the gang down in that most gentle, politically astute, and downright humorous of all swamps.

For some of the most wonderful word play outside of the Bard himself, readers should try to find a copy of the LP record *Songs of the Pogo*, produced by Kelly back in the 1950s, shortly after Pogo ran for President. His campaign song, "I Go Pogo," is on the record, along with about two dozen other marvelously varied offerings, sometimes sung by uncredited persons whose voices you might recognize. Kelly himself sings several, including this ditty:

"Have you ever, while pondering the ways of the morn,
Thought to save just a bit, just a drop in the horn,
To pour in the evening or late afternoon,
Or during the night, when we're shining the moon.
Have you ever cried out while counting the snow,
Or watching the Tom-tit warble 'Hello' …
Break out the cigars, this life is for squirrels!
We're off to the drugstore to whistle at girls!"

All homage and copyright acknowledgements to the Kelly estate and apologies for any small unintended deviation from the published lyrics.

When I was in Korea in 1951, my wife-to-be would clip *Pogo* from the Richmond *Times-Dispatch* and send the strips to me weekly. It helped me make it through the war and brightened the days of many of my buddies.

Thanks for having Harvey recount the 50th anniversary of *Pogo*'s first strip appearance! It was marvelous.

*[That article went through **three** proofreading checks, and none of us caught the error you cite. Thanks for setting it straight.]*

Jay R. Shull
333 N. 25th Ave.
Hattiesburg, MS 39401

Harlan Ellison: You are correct.

Quite some time ago, something like two years, I wrote to ***CBG*** with my 2¢ about how comics creators owe me an autograph. You called on the phone to personally take me to task. Besides the fact that I was stunned and pleased to be on the receiving end of one of your famous opinions, I simply would not see your point. We agreed to disagree, but you still kindly recommended the out-of-print novel *Seven Who Fled* by Frederic Prokosh.

Upon much reconsideration, I must admit that you are right. No one owes me anything. But do you think it possible that in the current climate of sales, creators might owe it to *themselves* to give me an autograph? If I am at a convention to sing praises to a creator for his work that I enjoy, a simple "Thank you" should suffice. But consider those people who travel to these conventions to meet the people that give them joy once a month. Most are working *schleps* who never get the job of their dreams for many reasons. They save hard to get to a convention. They approach the table to tell the creator how much they like his or her work. Then they are told to whip out the cash to get an au-

(Continues on Page 20)

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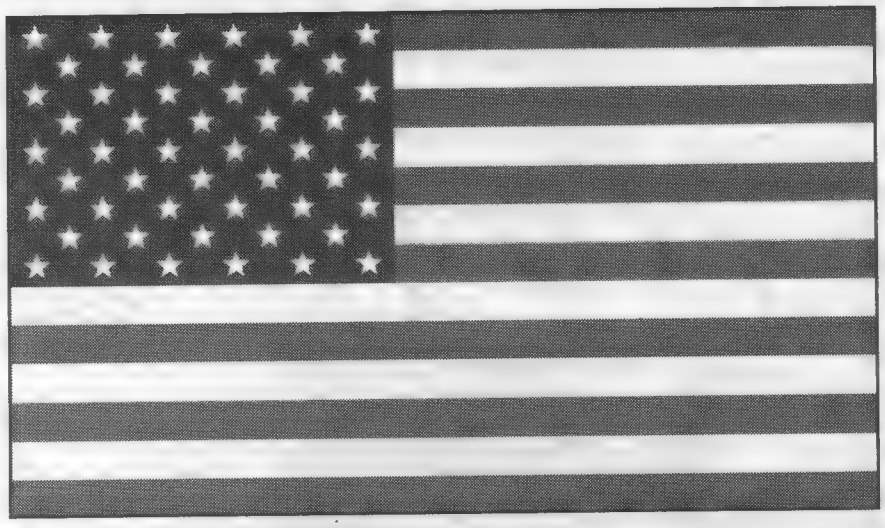

A salute to war comics

As we have for the past few Memorial Days and Veteran's Days, this Veteran's Day, ***CBG*** remembers America's war comics with features by Doug Murray (*The 'Nam*) and more.

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Oh, So?

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tograph. Cold and mercenary, don't you think?

I certainly can understand the frustration for creators when a "fan" comes up with his entire collection (much less multiple copies of a single issue) to sign and I think these people should be charged until it hurts. As the prices for product go up and up, people must make decisions as to where to place their dollar. The true fan at the convention is there to stroke the ego of someone he or she admires. The creators are there to promote their product, themselves, and ultimately to have their egos stroked. Any creator who thinks an autograph is nothing more than a silly way to make a buck might need to think again. This can be some of the best marketing they will ever see.

A positive experience can cinch years of comics dollars for a creator. This fan will follow the creator from title to title, company to company, almost without fail. I respectfully submit that, if a creator wants to rest his career simply upon output, maybe he should not attend conventions and possibly hurt his appeal to readers. I must say that on almost all occasions I have had nothing but wonderful experiences with creators I have met. On those few occasions when I have not, my comics dollars have ended up elsewhere. I would love to hear from anyone regarding this matter, as I find it one of interesting discussion.

On a related note, Maggie, please try to convince Ellison to submit an occasional list of classics that we should have read. I know there are quite a few of us out there who are too strapped for time to cull the shelves at the Books A Million to find the gem amongst the rubble of all the series novels. Harlan has never steered me wrong in any of the selections he has mentioned.

(Continues on Page 22)

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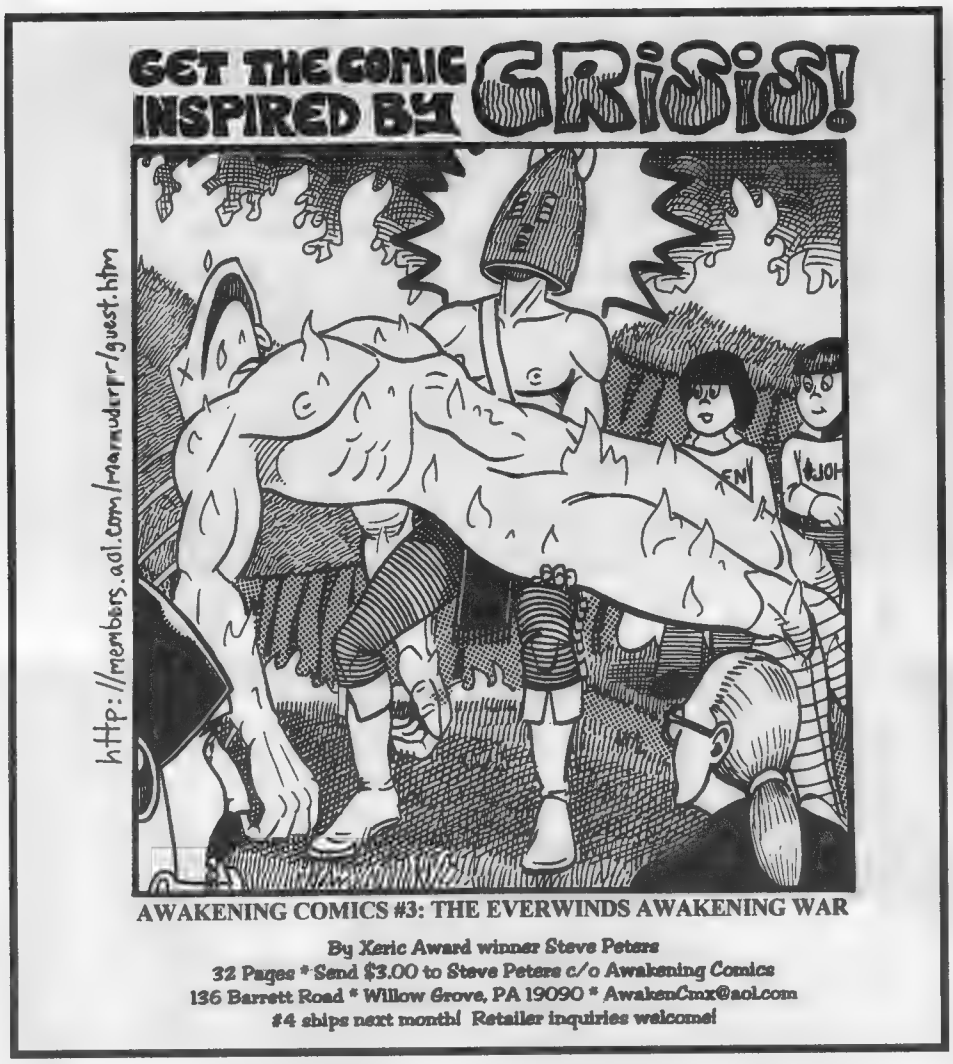

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COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE

Oh, So?

From Page 20

Regarding the latest discussion of advertising comics on television: I seem to remember back in the '80s a big stink surrounding *GI Joe*. It was the animated, comics, and toy juggernaut of the decade. You watched it on TV and, during the breaks, you saw the toys you had to have. It seems the comic book by Marvel was advertised, also. If you could find first printings, they went for a hefty sum. Lots of parents began to be concerned that children were being unduly influenced to demand GI Joe product. And then the government stepped in. Didn't the FCC make some rule about related products not being allowed to be advertised within the breaks of the program in question? I seem to remember something like this happening. Maybe Mark Evanier or someone he knows would have some knowledge of this.

Additionally, I would like to wholeheartedly recommend Barnes & Noble on the web. I ordered Andrew Vachss' latest novel *Safe House* from them, I didn't crack it open until I was on the plane to London this past July, and, boy, did I get a wonderful surprise! Inside was a bookplate with the man's signature. Now, that is a class bookseller. I wish we had one down here. I most heartily recommend *Safe House* as well as its companion soundtrack. Yes, that's right; we finally get to hear some of the blues that Burke is always talking about. But, unfortunately, there is only one Judy Henske song. As all good Burke fans know, this is the woman who stirs his soul. I've got to hear more, but no one carries or has heard of her. Can anyone help?

[Readers who enjoy books they've bought online might want to check to see whether the online service permits a review of the material purchased. Your rave can steer other potential purchasers who might otherwise pass the item up. I occasionally check www.amazon.com, for example, to see whether anyone has yet commented there on ***All in Color for a Dime****, which is available through the service. And I checked it this weekend after getting a letter from someone mentioning a mainstream writer — checked to see what sort of material the guy had written. (All but one of the reviews was a rave and made me want to read the book.)*

Judy Henske is a folk singer who appeared at least once, as I recall, on the Smothers Brothers show. Her voice is huskily distinctive, and solo albums (1960s? 1970s?) include ***The First Concert Album*** *(Reprise),* ***Judy Henske*** *(Elektra),* ***High Flying Bird*** *(Elektra), and* ***Little Bit of Sunshine ... Little Bit of Rain*** *(Mercury). She was also on* ***Rosebud*** *(Reprise),* ***Hootenanny, Hootenanny Volume 2****, and* ***Zapped****. I note that her only track on the Vachss disc is "Till the Real Thing Comes Along." I prefer her lighter moments in concert, but she's dynamite.*

The writer Harlan singled out to a creative writing course a couple of years ago is Donald E. Westlake.

JJM: *While there has since been regulatory activity regarding licensed-product ads during cartoons, there's an interesting story about the '80s* ***Joe*** *show. I learned via G. Wayne Miller's* ***Toy Wars*** *(Times Books, 1998, $25, ISBN 0-8129-2984-5) that the commercials advertising Marvel's* ***G.I. Joe*** *in the 1980s — the Godzilla of mass-market TV campaigns, promoting single issues of an ongoing series — were entirely paid for by Hasbro. Networks and stations had voluntary guidelines limiting animation in toy commercials so young children wouldn't get confused about what the toys could do. But nothing restricted animation in comic-book ads, so Hasbro approached Marvel, offering to spend $3 million to push its* ***G.I. Joe*** *comics — an offer that came as something of a shock but was gladly accepted.]*

Caleb Gerard
260 Alpine St., #6
Pasadena, CA 91106

I remember when *Crisis* was out. I'm sure that with the demographics of comics readers this is not a rare thing. But that speaks more about the industry and not about what I really want to discuss, or does it? We'll see.

I was shopping at the only direct-purchase place in my area, a small store that was in an antiques mall. *Crisis* was just getting under way. Who were some of these characters? OK, OK, as a diehard fanboy the only ones I really had no knowledge of were the the Charlton ones, but still — this was cool. Team comics were, and generally are still, the gnarliest.

This was the ultimate team comic book. Not since Marvel's *Contest of the Champions* had I seen so many in so small a space. I laughed when Changeling met Talky Tawny. I got angry right along with Anthro, as his world fell apart around him. And, and I'm not ashamed to admit it (OK, a little), I cried when Supergirl died. Not the death, but the funeral. I could not do the plot justice in a letter, and I'm sure that it will be covered at length here and in the collection and other places.

The result was satisfactory. I've heard the condensing of the DC universe derided here and there. They say the older fans have been shortchanged for having invested so much time and money. I for one was pleased. For the most part I still had all of the heroes and stories I liked intact. Certain crossovers really rocked (*All-Star Squadron*) while others really sucked (the *Firestorm* and *Titans* ones, for instance). The result was the DC universe, not DC universes. Fine; too many heroes on one Earth; so what?

I guess this does bring up the point of the age thing and why *Crisis* worked for most of us as a fun and interesting story. It was aimed at the whole readership. It did not just include the older readers. In fact, it promoted itself as a doorway in for new and young readers. It was fantastic without being goofy. Digression over. Or is it?

What has irked me in the years since are the constant clones and the dissolution of *Crisis*. *Zero Hour* was OK, but it did away with some of *Crisis*. *Millennium* was stupid. *Secret Wars* was fun, but please: The upshot is that I loved *Crisis*. Most of the changes it has brought on have been for the best.

[Hope you enjoy this issue, with a long, affectionate look at what you loved.]

Jay Horetzke
P.O. Box 460
Stratton, ME 04982

One of my favorite parts of subscribing to

(Continues on Page 24)

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Oh, So?

From Page 22

CBG is voting in, and observing the results of, the ***CBG*** awards. Although my favorites usually don't win, or even come close, I enjoy seeing the opinions of some of the more knowledgeable fans in the field. In the past, creators receiving at least five votes would be listed in the results. This was not the case this year, and I hope to see it return.

The reason for my letter is an aspect of comic books that, as far as I know, has been overlooked by all industry awards. The editorial or letters column can often be quite an entertaining aspect of the comic book all by itself. More and more of the writers and artists are taking part in responding to fan letters instead of passing the task to an assistant editor. Some creators have used the space to discuss future developments in the comic book, promote some of their favorite comics, or just to say what is on their mind.

Writers such as Garth Ennis and Warren Ellis keep their letter pages fun with their personal responses. Paul Chadwick's sometimes controversial subject matter makes for interesting reader feedback. I understand that Dave Sim and Erik Larsen have been known to have some interesting things to say, as well. (I'm sure there are many others I haven't had the opportunity to read.)

Creators who take the time to give the reader this extra bit of entertainment deserve recognition for their efforts. Do I have any support from other fans to begin an awards category for best letters column or editorial?

Elizabeth A. Kowols
1660 Thacker, #4C
Des Plaines, IL 60016

After four years of writing Chicago con reports, I've come to the realization that going to the con for all three days is like feasting at an overflowing table: It takes about a week to digest everything I've seen and heard.

Let's get the couple of small complaints I've got out of the way first: While I understand the need to keep the fountain area for the major signings of the weekend (and there were times I couldn't even *see* Todd McFarlane, with his autograph line the length it was), there's got to be a better way to handle everyone else's autograph sessions. Having them in the dealers' room, no matter where you set the tables, creates confusion about where the lines begin and end, and keeping the center of those aisles clear is almost impossible. And, of course, the more guests you have, the worse the problem becomes.

Second, I would suggest that the guests be allowed to take their lunches away from the autograph tables. Since they are still at their tables, people feel free to continually ask for autographs, even though they can see the folks are eating. If you're truly a fan of these people, please give them a break. (That goes for fans, as well as organizers.)

OK. Complaints done. On to the fun stuff!

Let's see: We had everything from Superboy to Spawn, Space Aces to Space Ghost. There were several times during the weekend that I wished I were cloned, so I could get to more panels and stay in the anime room. *And* walk the dealers' room, *and* take my time with each of the people in Artists Alley. Waiting in some of the autograph lines, I got a chance to talk to some of those artists and writers. A good friend of mine, Mike Kelly, is self-publishing *Power Plays* and does the writing and pencilling. There are so many talented newcomers to the field who self-publish, not because they're not good enough for the "big boys," but because they are unknowns. Support your local comics creator! A good place to find information about new comics is ***Comics Buyer's Guide***. (Was that a subtle plug or what?)

Thanks go out to Voyager Promotions, who helped me find *Star Trek* trading cards for my husband, who grants me with the opportunity to go to the con every year.

As usual, my first stops were the panels for the *Babylon 5* and *Star Wars* people. Claudia Christian (all hail Clan MacStagger!) and Walter Koenig were a scream during the whole weekend, with Joshua Cox and Robin Atkin Downes occasionally being able to slide a word in edgewise. Saturday's panel for *Babylon 5* saw everything from Downes salaaming to Koenig (with Downes on his knees on the table!), and Koenig holding out his hand so Downes could kiss his ring, to Cox stripping off his shirt to show his washboard stomach, to Christian saying "hi" to the little person in her model of a Star Fury. Sunday's *B5* panel was just as good; one of the memorable bits for me was hearing Christian and Koenig reciting lines from Shakespeare.

I was deeply disappointed that there was only one *Star Wars* panel, but I did get to hear and see more of Jeremy Bulloch's unique brand of humor, when he signed a limited-edition Boba Fett vs. Alien poster — "Am I cool or what?" Maria de Aragon (who played Greedo in Episode 4) got a chuckle out of my doing some of the Greedo dialogue. I was surprised she hadn't heard it elsewhere on the tour, which she joined in January. Kenny Baker had marvelous stories to tell, and David Prowse was very much in demand, as usual.

Ooh, ooh! I finally got to meet Tony Isabella this year! What a charming fellow. I am in process of reading all his on-line columns. (No, I haven't gone blind — yet!)

I hope Maggie had comfortable shoes on — she was dashing all over the place. There were two other gents and a lady at the ***CBG*** booth whom I had the pleasure of chatting with. I'm horrible with names and should have written them down; please don't hurt me!

Went to the Mad Media room party and met some terrific people. Hi, Boyd! Hi, Gene! Discussions in that room ranged from the upcoming Mad Media 5 event itself (Sept. 25-27 in Madison, Wis.) to Boyd's interest in alternate history to a lively debate on Harlan Ellison's work. (Still got a few scorch marks!)

All in all, a very satisfying weekend. As I wrap up this year's report, I'm listening to the Celebration Theme from *Return of the Jedi*. To

(Continues on Page 97)

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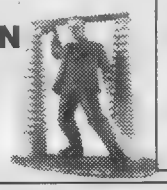

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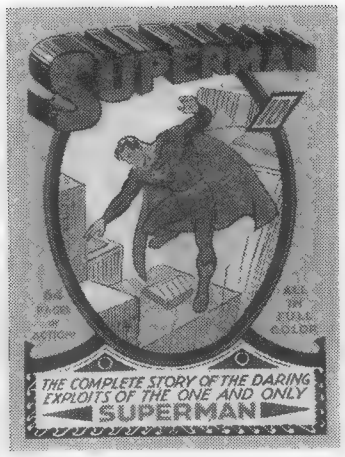

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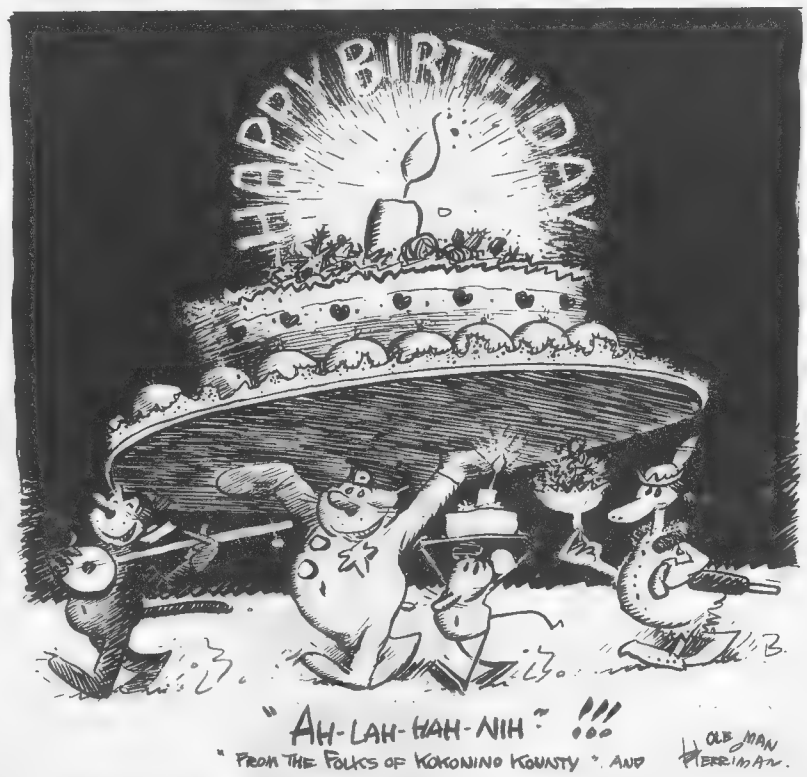

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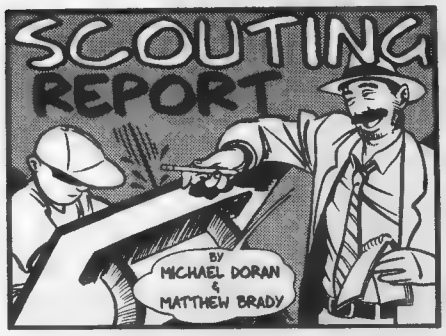


Lay enters the swamp. Vertigo Editor **Stuart Moore** recently confirmed that **Carol Lay**, best known for her strip *Story Minute*, will be the writer of Vertigo's new *Swamp Thing* series, while French artists **Stan Manoukian** and **Vince Roucher** (who've done plenty of work for Dark Horse) will provide the art. **Phil Hale** will paint the covers for the series, which is yet to be scheduled.

Moore also confirmed that **Gilbert Hernandez** will pencil the first six issues of **Peter Bagge**'s Vertigo series, *Yeah!*

Bimonthly Cliffhangers. While it may or may not be a result of the deal with DC, a spokesman for WildStorm/Cliffhanger has confirmed that both **J. Scott Campbell**'s *Danger Girl* and **Joe Madureira**'s *Battle Chasers*, which have both been shipping on an irregular schedule, have been officially switched to bimonthly shipping.

An older and wiser Thing. Writer **Karl Kesel** gets a chance to return to one of his favorite super teams this December, when he writes *Fantastic Four/Fantastic Four '98* annual. Following the team-up theme of Marvel's 1998 annuals, the story kicks off when Ben Grimm finds himself transported to an alternate Marvel Earth where the characters came into existence the same year their comic book appeared (1961 for The FF) and have aged in real time since. It's a concept that Kesel and many comics fans have considered at one time or another.

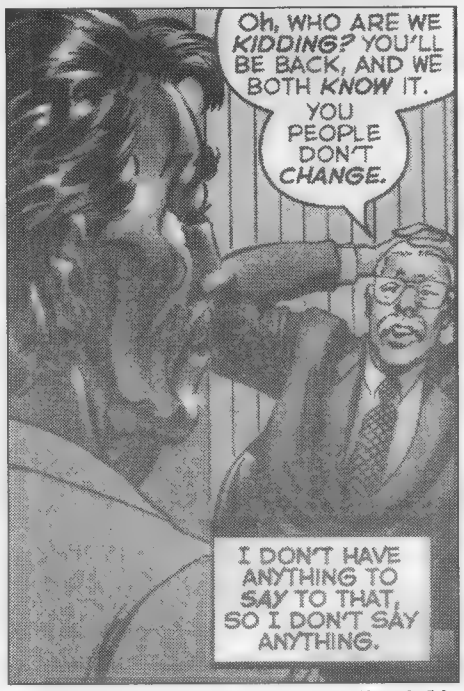
"By 1998, Reed is somewhere in his 70s; he and Sue are basically retired from active FF duty," Kesel said. "Ben, Johnny, Johnny's wife Crystal, and Franklin make up the team now. Johnny and Crystal have two kids: a daughter named Luna and a son named 'Cosmic' Ray. As with the best FF stories, it's a big story about family (and getting Ben home again)."

The annual will be pencilled by Kesel's former *Adventures of Superman* partner, **Stuart Immonen**.

Busiek gets by with a little help from his friends. It looks as if the title of comics' Iron Man is up for grabs. **Kurt Busiek** recently reported that, due to his recent serious illness and impending fatherhood, he's going to cut back on his Herculean workload (four monthlies along with the *Avengers Forever* maxi-series beginning this month and five double-sized issues in the immediate future). Busiek has called in friends to help him out, and his revised workload now looks like this:

Captain America/Citizen V '98 — **Barbara Kesel** will step in to co-script from a plot by Busiek and **Karl Kesel**.

Iron Man and *Avengers Forever* — **Roger Stern** will join Busiek as co-plotter on *Avengers Forever* beginning with #3 and co-writing *Iron Man* indefinitely, starting with #13.



*The latest storyarc in **Kurt Busiek's Astro City** began in #14.*

"As a comics historian and writer of one of the best *Avengers* runs in the series' history, he's got a wealth of knowledge about The Avengers and their foes and has already started backstopping me on various key details in the histories of Kang, Immortus, and some of the other folks who'll be important to *Avengers Forever*," Busiek said. "And more than that, since Roger's a top-notch writer, I feel like I'm getting the chance to study under a master by working with him on these comics."

Busiek admitted that he and Stern have already begun brainstorming on both projects, including Kid Colt and Marvel's Western heroes in *Avengers Forever*, a crossover with the FF in *Iron Man*, and finding out what happened to former Avenger Jocasta.

Finally, Busiek announced that *Kurt Busiek's Astro City* is back on track, and series artist **Brent Anderson** is currently drawing #15, the second part of the six-part Steeljack story.

Moore gets more creators. WildStorm Productions has found the final piece of the creative puzzle for **Alan Moore**'s upcoming "America's Best Comics" line. The publisher announced that the penciller-inker team of **J.H. Williams** and **Mick Gray** will illustrate *Promethea* and join an artistic line-up that already includes **Chris Sprouse, Gene Ha, Rick Veitch**, illustrating Moore-conceived and -written titles.

Next month the duo begins work on #1 of the series that will make its debut in the spring of '99, then begin work on a 96-page **Howard Chaykin**-written hardcover for DC called *Son of Superman*, before returning to *Promethea* for issue #2 and the rest of the title on a regular basis.

According to Gray, it didn't take much convincing to get the young duo to sign on the dotted line. "We were offered the project and we just said, *'Yes!'* We knew it would be cool if Alan Moore is writing it."

'Buffy' in 'TV Guide.' Comics publishers are always looking for ways to expose their work to larger, currently non-comics-buying audiences, and Dark Horse Comics may have found a way to do just that. Dark Horse has confirmed that a five-page *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* comic-book story written by **Christopher Golden** and illustrated by **Hector Gomez** will be included in an upcoming issue of *TV Guide*. The insert will reportedly be included in the Halloween issue of the weekly publication.

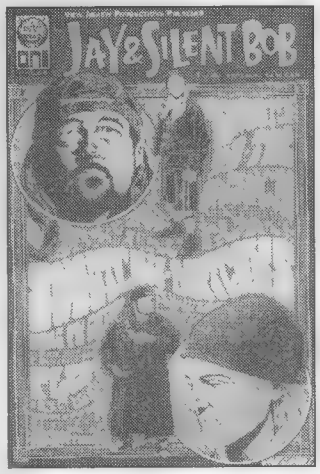
Golden and Gomez also figure prominently in Dark Horse's many plans for adaptation of **Joss Whedon**'s cult television hit. Gomez is pencilling writer **Dan Brereton**'s upcoming Buffy graphic novel *The Dust Waltz* and will then move over to pencil three issues (#4-#6) of the *Buffy* ongoing series by writer **Andi Watson**. Gomez will be filling in for the series' regular penciller **Joe Bennett**, who will use that time off to pencil a three-issue miniseries by Golden and Brereton called *Buffy: The Origin*. This series, scheduled to begin in January, is based on Whedon's original script for the *Buffy* theatrical film, but with the likeness of television's Buffy, **Sarah Michelle Gellar**, replacing the likeness of move Buffy **Kristy Swanson**. Bennett will then move back to the ongoing series upon *Buffy: The Origin*'s completion.

No more Vertigo letters. DC/Vertigo Senior Editor **Stuart Moore** has announced that, as of December-shipping issues, Vertigo will discontinue publishing letter pages in any of its titles. According to Moore, the letter pages will not be replaced with house ads for DC and Vertigo projects, but with paid advertising from outsider advertisers. "This isn't a step we'd particularly like to take," explained Moore. "But our ad department is doing enormous business lately, and it's gotten to the point where sometimes we literally can't fit in all the ads they've sold in a given issue. This is a good problem to have. I don't think it's any secret that times are tough and comic books, *per se*, aren't generating a lot of profit these days; anything we can do, like this, to keep marginal comics feasible, by generating more ad revenue, is worth it in my book."

Moore encouraged readers to keep sending letters, however, and said that they still read and pass along to creators every letter sent. Moore also said he hopes to explore ways to use DC's Internet presence to "take some of the place" of the letter columns.

Oni explains 'Jay & Silent Bob' delay

Jay & Silent Bob #2, scheduled to ship in August, has been fraught with problems leading to a delay. Oni Press President and Editor in Chief Bob Schreck said the company regrets the situation and wishes to extend an apology to its fans and supporters, along with an assurance that Oni is doing everything possible to get the issue out and the rest of the series back on track.



*The first issue of **Jay & Silent Bob** has been reprinted multiple times.*

Initial problems began when writer Kevin Smith's latest film production, *Dogma*, not only took longer to shoot than planned, but also required a large amount of post-production work, due to its elaborate story and special effects. As a result, the script was late going to the artist.

Due to this delay, a scheduling conflict forced artist Duncan Fegredo to finish a story for another publisher. When he was finally ready to start the issue, he contracted a virus that slowed him down even more.

"This may all sound like excuse-making," Schreck said, "but that is not our intention. This is really one of those situations where circumstances got beyond our control. Oni has always been committed to delivering its product in a timely fashion and, until now, we have done well. Our biggest concern at this point is getting the issue into the hands of the retailers and fans without the quality of the material suffering. Once we are over this hump, the last two issues should follow every six weeks."

Oni Publisher Joe Nozemack said, "This is unfortunate for everybody. We are working double-time to get this issue together. If all goes as planned, *Jay & Silent Bob* #2 will finally hit the racks in mid-October."

Jay & Silent Bob #2 is the second installment of the four-issue mini-series. The cover of the 32-page black-and-white issue is illustrated by Mike Allred and colored by Laura Allred.

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4 G 9
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2 G 21

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10 G 22

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9 F 27

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5 VG 26

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3 G #1 20

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1 G+ 62
2 G 21
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8 G 13

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22 VG 15

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2 G- 18

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4 G- 7

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44 G+ 18
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2 VG 19

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15 VG- 69
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10 G 7

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6 VG 14
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5 G 5
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1 F 52
4 VG 13

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45 Fr 19
58 F 68
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CAPT. MARVEL JR.
17 F 133
29 F 110
45 F+ 79
88 Fr 8

CAPT. MIDNIGHT
10 missing pages O/W G+ 25
16 G+ 62
36 VG 52

CASEY CRIME PHOTOGRAPHER
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2 G+ 16

COMBAT KELLY
18 VG 11

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47 F 28
53 VG/F 23
55 G+ 13
56 G- 6

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18 G 6
18 Fr 4
21 G 6
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4 G 7
12 G 6
17 G 6
19 F 15
19 G 6
21 G 5
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3 VG+ origin 40
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41 F 54

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34 VG/F 15
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40 G- 5

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41 VG- 25
42 VG 29
43 F+ 63
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104 G 18
112 G 14
113 F+ Popeye 60
115 G Lulu 35
121 G 11
128 G+ 20
132 NM Stunning 120
158 G LuLu 28
159 G D. Duck 63
164 G+ 22
165 G LuLu 28
169 G 14
178 G 93
181 G 15
188 G+ 14
189 G- 45
191 G 10
223 G "Square Egg" 65
250 G+ 17
274 VG 17
289 Fr 7
296 Fr 7
317 G+ 11
318 G 26
322 G- 5

FOUR FAVORITES
13 G- 19

FRANKENSTEIN
13 G- 22

FRANKIE (TIMELY)
4 (#1) NM Awesome 120

FRISKY FABLES
V2 #2 G 6
V2 #3 G+ 9
V2 #12 VG 13
V3 #1 G+ 8

FUNNY FROLICS
2 G 9

FUNNY FOLKS
8 G-/G 9

FUNNY STUFF
7 G 19
21 G+ 14
28 VG 19
Wheaties Giveaway Fr 60

GEORGIE
2 VG 19
4 VF 45
8 F 24

GIGGLE
24 G- 4
25 G- 4
37 G 6
40 G+ 9
44 G 5

GI JOE (Z-DAVIS)
11 (1951) VG 16

GIRLS' LOVE
2 VG Photo, Scarce 63
7 VG Photo 40

GOOFY COMICS
10 G- 7
16 G 8
19 VG 14

GREEN LANTERN
7 VG White Pages 395

HA HA COMICS
26 VG+ 14
32 G 6
40 G- 5
47 G- 4
58 G 5
62 G- 4
66 F 14

HAPPY COMICS
18 G- 5
19 G 7
20 G+ 11
27 VG 15

HAPPY HOULIHANS (EC)
2 VG/F 55

HEADLINE COMICS
6 G+ 23
11 G 11
14 F+ 43

HEART THROBS
4 G 11

HEDY DEVINE
27 G- 8

HEROIC COMICS
31 VG 9
35 VG 13

HI-JINX
2 VG 18
5 G 11

HUMPHREY
3 G 7

HURRICANE COMICS
NN VG 36

JACK IN THE BOX
1 VG+ 28

JAMBOREE COMICS
2 VG 22
3 G 11

JEANIE COMICS
15 G- 9

JINGLE JANGLE COMICS
7 VG+ 31
18 VG+ 23
21 VG+ 23
26 VG 18
27 G- 7

JOE COLLEGE
1 G- 8

JOE PALOOKA
4 F 36
6 F+ 52
7 VF 72
8 F+ 40
25 VG/F 15
33 F 16
56 VG/F 13

JO-JO COMICS
NN G 15

JUKE BOX
1 G 39

JUNIOR MISS
26 VG/F 15
34 G- 5
35 F 18
39 VG/F 19

JUSTICE (ATLAS)
41 VG 24

KATY KEENE COMICS
1 VG except 2 cut outs so poor 45
2 VG/F 115

KEEN TEENS
NN VG/F 53

KERRY DRAKE
3 F+ 49
18 G 6

KID COWBOY
4 G+ 9

KILROYS
8 G 6
9 VG 12
16 VG 12
17 Fr 4
20 G- 5
22 G 6
24 G 6
25 G 6
26 VG 12
33 G- 5

KING COMICS
130 G 10
140 G+ 15

KOKO & KOLA
2 G+ 9
3 G 5
5 G 5

LANA (Timely)
1 G- 14

LAND OF THE LOST (EC)
1 Poor/Fr 10
3 VG 30
4 G+ 22
5 VG+ 36
6 G 15
8 G 15

LATEST COMICS (BEE-29)
2 G+ 14

LAUGH COMICS
20 (#1) F+ Mint Paper & Gloss 245
29 G+ 22
32 G 11
34 Fr 7
35 G+ 16
37 G 11
38 G- 9
39 G 11
41 VG+ 26
43 G 8

LEADING COMICS (DC)
15 F 1st Funny Animal Issue 75
18 G 10
19 G 10
20 G 10
21 G 10
24 G 10
27 G 10

LEAVE IT TO BINKY
10 G 9

LIFE STORY
1 G+ 16
4 G+ 7
8 G- 4

LI'L ABNER
69 VG 29
71 G+ 16
78 G 15

LI'L PAN
6 G (#1) 9

LITTLE IODINE
11 VG 8

LITTLE MISS MUFFETT
11 VG/F 17

LOONEY TUNES & MERRY MELODIES
11 G 44
16 G+ 46
19 VG 61
20 pgs out 10
21 G+ 40
23 G 27
24 G+ 40
25 G+ 40
26 G 20
27 G- 18
28 VG+ 50
29 G- 16
30 G+ 29
31 G 16
32 VG 32
37 VG+ 39
42 VG 27
43 VG/F 35
48 VG 27
53 VG/F 23
59 F+ 40
60 VG+ 24
61 VG 13
62 VG+ 16
64 VG+ 16
65 VG/F 16
Numerous Later Issues Available Call

LOVE LESSONS
4 VG 9
5 G+ 7

LOVE TALES (TIMELY)
42 VG- 9

MAGIC COMICS
51 G 11
78 G 7
84 G- 5
87 G 7
100 G+ 12

MARGE'S LITTLE LULU
1 VG- 110
3 G 27
6 G+ 28
13 G- 12
15 VG 31
25 Fr/G 9
26 VG 25

MARGIE (TIMELY)
35 VF/NM Awesome (#1) 110
36 VG 13

MARVEL FAMILY
1 VG Nice Copy 260

MARVEL MYSTERY
65 G (VG+ w/Ls. Centerfold) 110

MARVEL TALES
98 G 62

MASTER COMICS
29 G- Hitler 70
64 VG+ 34
67 F+ 60

MEET CORLISS ARCHER
2 G- (VG w/Sm. P.O.F.C.) 45

MICKEY FINN
1 G+ 39
2 VG 25
3 VG 19
9 G+ 10

MILITARY COMICS
12 G Solid Copy 98

MILLIE THE MODEL
3 Off The Scale Gem NM+ 220
4 VG 42

MISS AMERICA
V7 11 G 5
V7 15 G 5
V7 19 VG 10
V7 20 G+ 7
V7 22 G+ 7
V7 23 VG 10
V7 27 Fr 4
V7 32 Fr/G 4
V7 33 G 5
V7 38 Fr 4

MR. ANTHONY'S LOVE CLINIC
1 G- 10

MITZI'S ROMANCES
10 F Double Cover! 29

MODERN COMICS
52 G+ 59

MOPSY
12 G 7
13 G 7

MUTT & JEFF
10 VG+ 59
12 F 45
13 VG+ 36
14 F 45
15 F+ 70
16 G 16
17 F 45
19 G- 12
21 VG 21
23 VG 21
25 F 33
26 F+ 50

MY LOVE AFFAIR
1 G- Scarce 30

MY SECRET
1 G 12

MYSTIC (ATLAS) 3rd Series
2 VG- 70

NATIONAL
38 VG Hitler 61
48 G 19

THE NEBBS
1 VF- 33

NUTTY COMICS
5 F+ 19

OUR GANG COMICS
3 VG 56
6 G 41
11 G- 41
18 G+ 32
21 G- 11
23 VG 29
28 G+ 22
40 G 6

PATSY WALKER
7 VG 29
8 VF+ 110
20 VG 19
27 Fr 4

PEP COMICS
73 G 12
76 Fr 9
77 Fr 9
81 VG 18
82 G 9
85 Fr 7
86 G 9
90 G 9

PIRATES COMICS
1 Fr/G 18

PIXIES
2 G+ 7

PLASTIC MAN
54 Fr/G 17

POPULAR
115 G 9
124 G- 7
135 G- 7

PRESTO! MAGIC TRICKS
NN 1944? VG 25

PRIZE COMICS
20 G 55
41 VG/F 28
50 G 12

PUNCH & JUDY
V2 #9 F double cover! 19
V2 #11 G- 13

GEORGE PAL'S PUPPETOONS
7 G+ 19
10 VG 25
18 G+ 14

REAL FACT COMICS
3 G 34

REAL SCREEN COMICS
4 Fr 21
10 Fr/G 15
13 G 15

REDSKIN
4 VG- 13

ROMANTIC CONFESSIONS
1 VG 24

ROMANTIC MARRIAGE
4 G 16

RUSTY (TIMELY)
12 (#1) VF- 75

SCHWINN BIKE BOOK
1949 G+ 10

SCIENCE COMICS (2nd)
1 G+ 21

SCREAM COMICS
7 G 7

SEARCH FOR LOVE
1 G+ 15

SHADOW COMICS
V6 #2 VG 46
V8 #6 G- 32

SHIP AHOY
1944 F L.B. Cole 42

SILLY TUNES
6 G 8

SKY PILOT
11 G 12

SPACE DETECTIVE (AVON)
2 G- 49

SPARKLER
46 G+ 16
48 VG 23
63 G- 8
66 G 10
67 G 10
68 G- 8
70 G+ 15
72 G 7
74 VG 14
84 VG- 10
88 G+ 10

SPARKLING STARS
8 VF 36

SPARKY WATTS
1 G Hitler 40
4 F 40

SPORTS STARS
1 VG 66

STRANGE ADVENTURES
8 G+ 95

STRANGE WORLDS (AVON)
4 Fr/G 54
5 G- 44

SUNNY
13 G+ 52
14 G- 33

SUPER COMICS
5 G+ 110
57 G- 12
87 G- 8

SUPER DOOPER
7 VG 25
8 Fr/G 7

SUPER DUCK COMICS
6 VG/F 27
8 VG/F 27
10 F 31
10 G 11
11 VF- 48
26 Fr 5
28 G 7
31 G- 6

SUPERMAN
29 G- 79
30 F Bright White 450
32 G 85
38 VG+ 155
56 F/VF 230
76 VG 280

SUPER RABBIT (TIMELY)
1 G 55
5 F 57
7 VF- 65
9 VF 75

SUZIE
49 (#1) F+ Fresh White 110
54 VF+ 100
65 Fr/G 7
67 G 9
69 G 9
80 VG 18

SWEETHEARTS
79 G 6
80 G 6

TAFFY
8 G+ 13

TARGET
V4 #2 G 11
V4 #2 Fr 7
V4 #4 VG 19
V4 #5 VG 19
V7 #11 VG/F 18

TEENA
15 G 7
20 G 5

TEENAGE ROMANCES
5 G+ 22

TEEN (TIMELY)
23 G 8
35 G+ 12

TERRY & THE PIRATES
12 G 8
14 G 8
17 VG 15
18 G 8
20 G+ 11

TERRY TOONS
16 G 17
45 F+ 61
50 VG- 1st Heckle & Jeckle! 55
51 F+ 40

TESSIE THE TYPIST
4 F+ Wolverton 90
7 F+ Wolverton 90
8 VG- Wolverton 28
10 G 22
13 G+ 31

THRILLING COMICS
42 G 26

TICK TOCK TALES
5 G 6
7 G+ 8
9 G 6
15 G 6
16 G 6
17 G 6
18 VG 11
19 G 6
20 G 5
23 G- 4
24 G 5
26 G 5

TIM HOLT
23 G 22

TINY TOT COMICS (EC)
NN 1946 VG (#1) 56

TIP TOP
59 G- 22
64 G- 13
79 G+ 23
82 G 14
84 G 14
86 VG 26
108 F 22
122 G 8
129 G 8
136 VG 16
139 G 8
141 VG 12
182 VG+ 15
190 G 5
197 G 5
200 G 5
204 G 5
210 G+ 8

TOMB OF TERROR
3 G Extreme Cover 20

TOM MIX
4 G 30

TOOTS & CASPER
(Large Feature Comic) #5 very scarce G+ 22

TOP NOTCH LAUGH
29 G Solid 55

TOYLAND
2 Fr 9

TRUE COMICS
15 VG 15
36 VG 10
43 G- 4
49 G 5
51 F 14
55 G 5
56 G+ 7
57 VG/F 11
59 G 5
60 F- 13
61 VG 10
63 VG/F 11
65 G+ 7
66 F 13
71 G- 4
73 G- 4
74 VG 9
75 G+ 7
76 G 5
78 G 5

TRUE SPORTS PICTURE STORIES
V2 #5 VG+ 36
V2 #11 G 16
V3 #5 F+ 57

TRUE TALES OF ROMANCE
4 G 8

VICKY COMICS
NN G 7

VIC VERITY
6 VF 45

WACKY DUCK (TIMELY)
4 F+ 69
4 G 15

WALT DISNEY COMICS & STORIES
28 G 45
29 G+ 67
30 G 45
32 G 125
34 G+ 110
36 VG 130
38 G 45
39 G+ 67
41 G+ 54
42 G 36
43 VG+ 90
46 VG 72
48 F 108
49 VG 72
53 VG 50
54 VG 50
56 F 75
60 F 75
65 G 21
67 VG/F 52
68 VG/F 52
72 VG/F 40
73 VG 32
74 F Golf Cover! 55
75 VG 32
76 VG+ 40
77 VG 32
Numerous Later Issues Call

WANTED
30 VG 10

WAR HEROES
8 G+ 11

WARRIOR COMICS
1 G+ 25

THE WESTERNER
16 VG+ 18
26 VG+ 18

WHIZ
50 G 27
56 Poor/Fr 9
69 VG 42
70 VG 42
72 VG+ 48
Wheaties Giveaway G- 60

WILBUR
7 VG 31
8 F+ 69
9 VF- 95
9 G 16
10 G- 11
22 G 8
23 G- 6
24 G- 6
25 G- 6
29 G 8
29 G 8
33 G 6
35 G 6

WILLIE (TIMELY)
5 (#1) NM 140
6 VF- 40
9 G 9

WONDERLAND
3 G+ 10

WORLD'S FINEST (Owl 10+)
11 G/G- 100
14 F- 295
19 VG 195

WOTALIFE
12 VG 13

YOUNG LOVE
V1 #2 G+ 27
V1 5 VG 18
V1 6 G 10

ZIP COMICS
44 VG Owl 10+ 65

ZOO FUNNIES
2 VG+ 23
3 G+ 12

ZOOT COMICS
2 G 14

State of the Industry – 1998

From Page 12

Not everybody will be coming along. The market didn't turn all at once in 1993; if it's turning now, it won't happen all at once, either. Companies at all levels — retail, distribution, publishing — that didn't address their fundamental problems during the past five years may not notice any general recovery at all. Publishers remain whose costs are too high, whose offerings are too tired or limited, whose bread-and-butter titles rely on fads. Retailers remain who are tied up in too much worthless inventory, poor locations, or tortuous leases.

So having said everything above about what may be finally going right for the market overall, in the end there may need to be 4,500 *separate* recoveries — one for each and every comic-book store and publisher.

Not all of whom need them. "What everyone forgets," Matthew High said, "is that a number of publishers never felt the effects of any crash, never saw significant decreases other than those caused by friction within the market." Viz and other manga publishers are examples, he suggested, as well as some single-title alternative publishers. "Basically, the further you were from mainstream, the less affected you were — and the less affected you'd be by any rebound."

Retailers and small publishers remain too cash-poor to fully exploit any improving market. Undercapitalization remains one of the most daunting challenges to the comics industry. When no retail chain in the country has ever had a dozen stores; when retailers and publishers alike must take second jobs; when one illness or divorce can take down a whole company — one has to wonder how much money is in the till to aggressively pursue new business.

For retailers, stocking a variety of merchandise in depth; for publishers, appearing at a wide range of events; for both, advertising within and outside the trade — all are things that must be done to really take advantage of any increase in comics' popularity. And all cost money.

To those already in business, that'll be a challenge. To newcomers, ***CBG***'s advice, given in *last* year's mega-issue, remains: To best serve the industry (and itself) a new store *needs to have* money for at least six months' orders (not just the deposit for the first month's rent) in the bank before opening its doors. And, preferably, the promotional plan for the entire year should be in ink to permit devotion of all the retailer's energies to the opening. And to best serve the industry (and itself) a new publisher needs to have at least six months' printing bills (not just the hope that next issue's check will pay for last issue's printing) *in the bank* before soliciting anything. And, preferably, those issues should already be done to permit devotion of all the publisher's energies to the launch.

If not, there's no law against waiting until you've got what it *really* takes to get started.

The newsstand market is still a mess. With few exceptions — such the new Bench Press Comics, which introduced its *Warrior's Way* title on the newsstand this summer — few publishers are counting on the newsstands for much help, according to interviews conducted earlier this year.

Marvel currently sends around 50 titles monthly to the direct market and 30 of those titles to the newsstand, said Thomas Conboy, manager of its newsstand sales for the mass market. The newsstand accounts for nearly 25% of Marvel's unit sales, Conboy said, with the direct market making up the other three quarters. The newsstand share has dropped significantly, he said, as the market's emphasis has tilted from the "casual impulse reader versus the constant hobby reader."

Marvel Vice President – Direct Sales Matt Ragone said the titles which do best on the newsstand are the ones with the longest history: Consumers will understand Spider-Man more readily than they will Venom. (Comparing both Second Class circulation forms and BPA figures with Diamond's reported preorders bears that out: "Basic" Spider-Man and X-Men titles may see as much as third of their sales from the newsstand, whereas "insider" titles like *Alpha Flight* may be less than 20% newsstand-supported.)

DC places less emphasis on the newsstand, with about 10% of its sales coming from there, said DC Publisher Paul Levitz. Its direct-market sales account for more than 80%, he said.

Newsstand sales figures for 1998 are trickling in. Turn to page **61** for the long-delayed update of ***CBG*'s Circulation Scavenger Hunt!**

"You reach more people and you sell some additional issues" on newsstands, he said. But, "it's getting to be a tougher market to work in. Newsstands and comics haven't been a good fit for a long time now... You reach a widespread readership, but you have to deal with a channel of distribution not oriented toward your product."

On the other hand, where the mass market has presented DC with opportunities is in its burgeoning and successful backlist sales of trade paperbacks and hardcovers. "We've been very pleased with the performance of our backlist and collected editions in the last few years," he said. "A lot of those orders have been from comics shops, but there has been some growth in the traditional bookstores."

At **Image**, there's a commitment to keeping certain titles on the newsstand, out in front of the public eye, said Image Director of Sales Bob Matson.

"The direct market is thousands of times more profitable than the newsstand market," Matson said. "It would be surprising if very many titles by very many companies are profitable on the newsstand."

Newsstand distribution has downsized drastically just as the direct market has, Matson said. There were once about 75 news distributors. Now there are eight or 10 large ones. "The larger companies swallowed the smaller companies that couldn't afford the new technology. None of it is nefarious... Just people making what are, to them, business decisions."

Selling comics to newsstand markets, every day is a hurdle, Conboy added. "You have to make them understand comics are not 'checkout' titles. It attracts a different group. Each product should be viewed differently." (Indeed, the most successful comics being sold on the newsstand today are different from typical comics and do appeal to the "checkout counter customer": **Archie**'s digests, which regularly post more than 100,000 copies in sales despite tiny-direct market orders. Publishers must pay exorbitant prices for shelving at checkout counters, however, making the position less attractive.

Another barrier to entry into newsstand outlets for many comics titles is a lack of UPC bar codes, Matson said. "A lot of comics products don't have the bar codes that would let a chain carry them. Lack of bar codes is an impediment to selling to chains, where data capture is a way of life."

The comics industry has relied increasingly less on the newsstand. If the industry embraced newsstand markets again, could they be its salvation?

"On a philosophical level, it might be great if we could go back to the newsstand market that was such a success for comics," Levitz said, "but the fact is that those newsstands ceased to exist in the '40s and '50s. It stopped existing when Americans moved to the suburbs, when you couldn't walk to the corner store any more. The newsstands that we thrived on aren't there any more...

"The problem is not that we don't fit the market. Just recreating the comics of our youth won't recreate the America of our youth. For better or worse, this is our time."

Retailers want to be here: Do publishers? As noted earlier, a heartening percentage of comics retailers today say their destiny is in comics retailing. Many retailers are not so sure of all their publisher partners' convictions, however.

Every few months a comics publisher declares the bookstore market is the place either to emulate or to be. Funny thing, that the voices of the many publishers burned by entering the bookstore distribution system (which is in its own tumultuous transition and has slammed publishers from Caliber to Kitchen Sink with crushing, expensive returns) are ignored.

And some fans and retailers express concern that other publishers are too interested in chasing animation or toy deals to serve their comics customers. A retailer wrote *Comics Retailer* this summer that he'd be better off attending trade-show functions with a Disney badge, for all the attention some publishers paid him.

It's clear that action figures, in particular, have helped some smaller publishers keep the presses running. Keeping the quality of the comics — and their customer service — is one ball these jugglers may not be able to afford to drop, however.

The moment of truth?

So when will we know for sure if the comics market is road to recovery?

Well — remembering it wouldn't be happening everywhere at once — there's one hurdle that looms very high...

The "dead quarter." The few signs of stabilization appearing in late 1996 faded away immediately in the first two months of 1997. Likewise, the first two months of 1998 took the wind out of a promising fourth quarter of 1997. January and February have traditionally been horrible months for publishers and retailers alike, with little on the schedule, the major exceptions being 1995's "Age of Apocalypse" and 1996's "DC vs. Marvel/Amalgam" events. What's to keep the promising trends of 1998 from blowing away in the chill winds of Winter 1999?

We have a few clues. January regularly sees business turnover, as publishers and retail stores opt to close rather than owe taxes for another operating year, and that's contributed to comics market woes in the past. (Regard the store closures of 1994, as well as Innovation's Dec. 31, 1993, shutdown.) Yet store population losses in January 1998 were modest. Reportedly, the number of Diamond comics accounts today is less than 5% off its December 1997 total. If retailers can weather the winter, the industry might not have to start all over again at a lower lever in 1999.

Another major portent: DC's absorption of WildStorm, if consummated on schedule, should benefit DC's bottom line significantly in the first quarter — and, should WildStorm sales get a bump as the result of any necessary relaunches, it's a net gain to the market overall.

Open questions are what impact a Marvel flush with new cash might have, as well as what Image may do to attempt to recover share from the loss of Wildstorm.

And not to be forgotten are media events with more visible comics ties: Disney's *Tarzan* and, finally, *Star Wars Episode I*, which will be backed by more than $1 billion in cross-media mass-market promotions. "Forget any worries about the film tanking," said one observer with insider ties to Lucasfilm. "It's simply not mathematically possible."

Finally, two thoughts are common from all our conversations on this topic:

- If a recovery does materialize, *manageable* growth is what the industry really needs. Wild rides like those of 1985-1986 and 1990-1993 are neither sustainable nor desirable, and, in the end, do not serve the best interests of those who depend on comics for enjoyment or for a living.
- That probably won't stop anybody, unfortunately. In the face of profits, perspective isn't always easy to come by.

After five years of depressing number-crunching, ***John Jackson Miller****, managing editor of* ***CBG*** *and editor of* ***Comics Retailer,*** *is thrilled to have anything new to report. Retailers and publishers can receive* ***Comics Retailer*** *free monthly by sending a request on company letterhead to Comics Retailer, Circulation Department, 700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990.*

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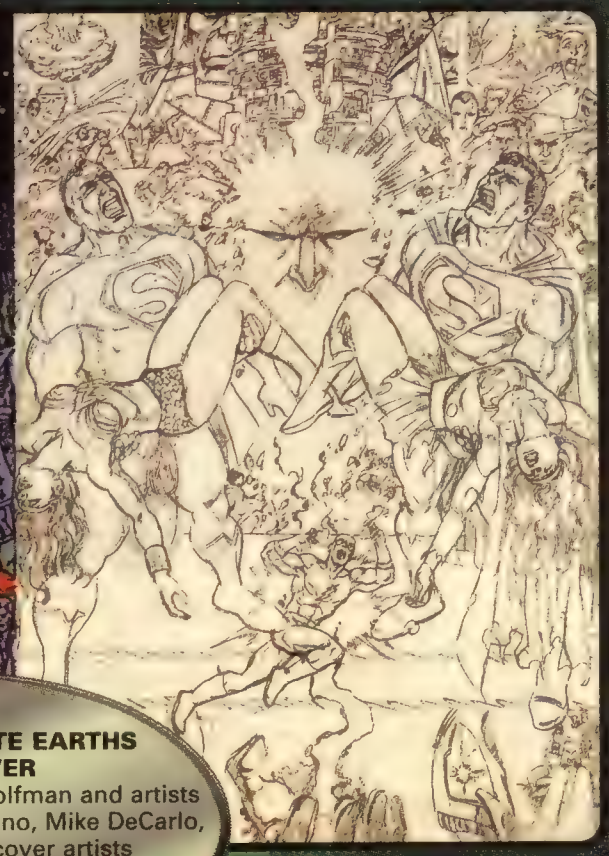

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the shadow of CRISIS

from the beginning of time to the end of the multiverse

and beyond

By Brent Frankenhoff
Projects Editor

'Crisis on Infinite Earths': The Overview

"I made a fatal error. I called the then current characters' world Earth-1 and the Golden Age world Earth-2, rather than the reverse."
— Julius Schwartz

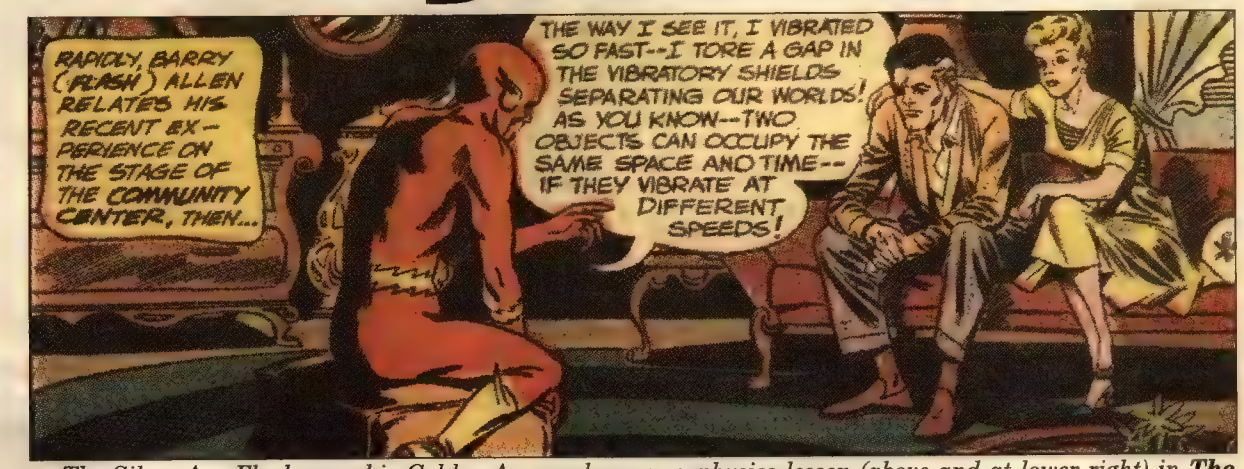
"*Crisis on Infinite Earths*? What's that?" Those are questions asked by new comics readers and even by those who may not have been reading comics in the mid-'80s, when the events of *Crisis* were unfolding.

There's a short answer

In brief: *Crisis on Infinite Earths* was an attempt to simplify the DC universe for new readers, eliminating the multiple Earths that DC had become known for. It was also designed to solve the problem of complex characters. These were the folks — villain and hero alike — whose histories had become so convoluted as to challenge even die-hard trivia buffs. It was almost impossible to keep track of which Earth was native territory for which characters, not to mention whether new incarnations were offspring of older characters or just new versions on a new Earth. (See Craig Shutt and Marc Patten on Wildcat.)

Or, to put it another way —

Crisis was a 12-issue maxi-series published by DC during 1985. Writer Marv Wolfman said the original concept for *Universe: Crisis on Infinite Earths* (the original name of the maxi-series) was to have 10 issues in which DC heroes would fight the villainous Anti-Monitor. Then, with the DC universe reformed at the dawn of time in issue #10, the final two issues would examine the "new history" of DC's single Earth. As the series continued, however, Wolfman discovered it was going to take all dozen of the issues to tell the story. So it was that the "history" was spun off as *The History of the DC Universe*, a two-issue prestige-format series in 1986.



The Silver Age Flash gave his Golden Age predecessor a physics lesson (above and at lower right) in ***The Flash*** *#123 (Sep 61).*

But where did it all begin?

How did the multiple Earths come about? The answer lies at the very beginning of the Silver Age in *Showcase* #4 (Sep 56).

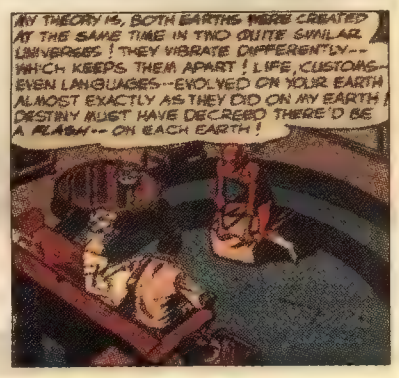
When Editor Julius Schwartz proposed reviving the super-heroes that had been off the stands for more than five years, he wanted a more science-fictional approach to them. The first hero chosen for revamping was The Flash, and writer Robert Kanigher began Barry Allen's origin with the revelation that the police scientist had been an avid comics reader himself who enjoyed the adventures of a super-speedster Jay Garrick, the first Flash. Allen took his inspiration from his comic-book hero when he was later covered in chemicals that had been struck by a lightning bolt that imparted to him the same super-powers.

Schwartz has said over the years that no one at DC at the time thought the audience would even remember that there had *been* an earlier series of adventures of another super-speedster, but he was proven wrong by fan mail asking for the return of the Golden Age characters, a feat accomplished five years after the introduction of Barry Allen. It came in the September 1961 issue of *The Flash* — #123 — in "The Flash of Two Worlds."

In that adventure, Barry Allen (as The Flash) was entertaining a group of school children at a theater and, during a super-speed trick, he disappeared. He had hit a vibrational frequency that put him on Earth-2, the home of Golden Age heroes.

Finding himself in a deserted theater, Barry quickly (how else?) discovered that he was in Keystone City where, he recalled, Jay Garrick had operated as The Flash in the 1940s. Writer Gardner Fox, who had also written a number of the Golden Age Flash's adventures, teamed the two Scarlet Speedsters to fight a trio of Garrick's old foes.

In his foreword to *The Greatest Team-up Stories Ever Told*, Schwartz wrote that the idea for multiple Earths came to him in this manner: "If there is an alter-



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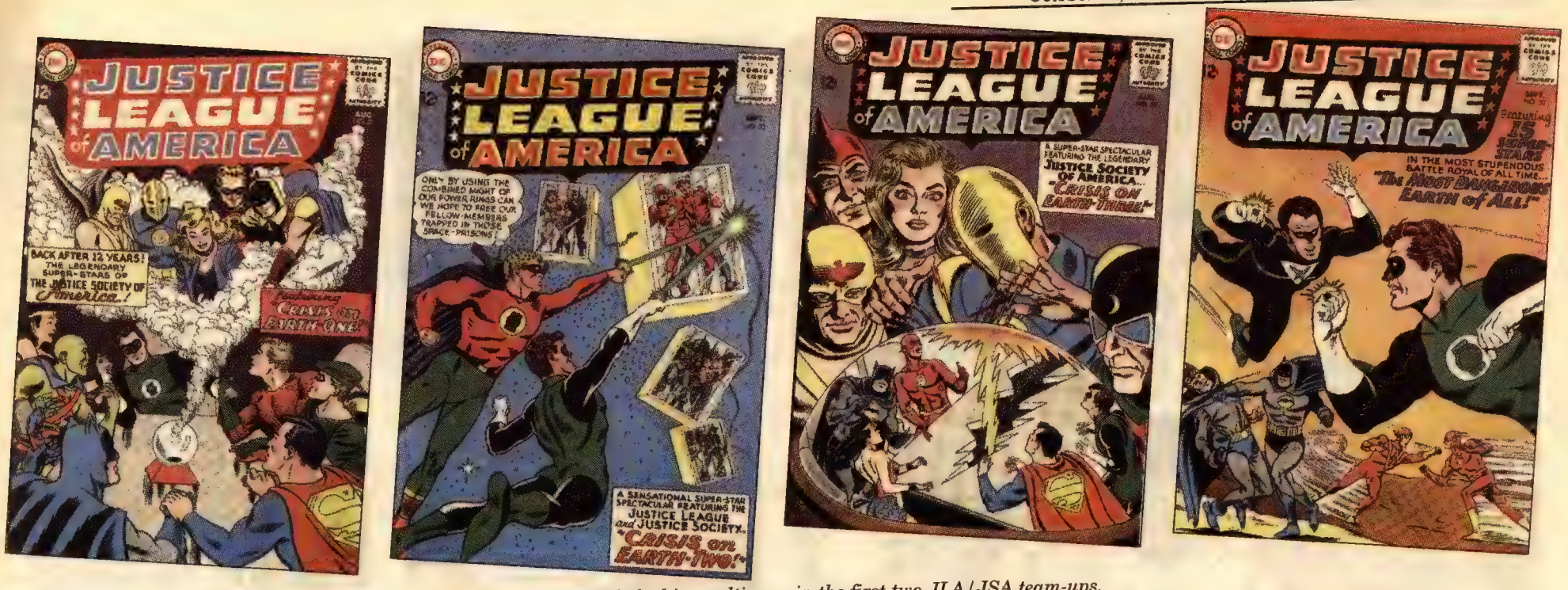


DC firmly established its multiverse in the first two JLA/JSA team-ups.

nate reality for Barry Allen in which there is a fantasy Flash, and for us the both of them are fantasy characters, then wouldn't it follow that we are fantasy characters from his point of view, and he just doesn't read about us all the time because we don't do anything particularly interesting? I mean, do Frank and Dick Merriwell or Huckleberry Finn live in the DC universe? No, they probably live in the Street and Smith universe or the Mark Twain universe. So how many universes are there? As many as we've got ideas for. So far, I realized, we've got at least two universes going, and it was time for a crossover.

"I made a fatal error. I called the then current characters' world Earth-1 and the Golden Age world Earth-2, rather than the reverse."

The concept of alternate worlds was well established in popular fiction, and almost two pages of John Clute and Peter Nicholls *The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction* are devoted to the topic, and the classic essay "If Napoleon Had Won the Battle of Waterloo" by G.M. Trevelyan was published in 1907. Moreover, the year before "Flash of Two Worlds," *Look* magazine had run MacKinlay Kantor's "If the South Had Won the Civil War," so even the most mainstream audience had been exposed to hypothetical worlds.

Then, more than a year passed

It would be nearly a year-and-a-half after "Flash of Two Worlds" before the next major event in the multiple Earths concept would come — in "Vengeance of the Immortal Villain" (*The Flash* #137, Jun 63). Bright lights began appearing in the sky over cities on Earth-1. Allen discovered these were in the same location as key cities on Earth-2, where such other Golden Age heroes as Dr. Mid-Nite, The Atom, Green Lantern, and Wonder Woman had operated. Allen also showed more of his comics collection by unearthing a copy of *All-Star Comics* #37.

After journeying to Earth-2, Allen and Garrick again joined forces to rescue the other members of The Justice Society, imprisoned by immortal villain Vandal Savage. Following the adventure, Wonder Woman suggested to the other JSA members that they come out of retirement and meet from time to time.

This led to the first of more than two dozen meetings between Earth-2's Justice Society of America and Earth-1's Justice League of America, beginning with the appropriately named "Crisis on Earth-One" (*Justice League of America* #21, Aug 63) and "Crisis on Earth-Two" (*Justice League of America* #22, Sep 63).

The multiverse was on

The following year, the two supergroups encountered Earth-3, an Earth where the heroes were villains. That world was shown in "Crisis on Earth-Three" (*Justice League of America* #29, Aug 64) and "The Most Dangerous Earth of All" (*Justice League of America* #30, Sep 64). Considerably later, it was shown that Lex Luthor was a hero there (*DC Comics Presents Annual* #1).

These annual crossovers were later used to introduce other Golden Age characters to the DC multiverse. One involved the Quality Comics characters (including Uncle Sam, The Ray, Black Condor, Phantom Lady, The Human Bomb, and Doll Man) on Earth-X. Another used the Fawcett characters (Captain Marvel and the rest of the Marvel Family, as well as Ibis the Invincible, Bulletman, and others) on Earth-S (for Shazam). Another Golden Age group, The Seven Soldiers of Victory (who had been back-up characters in a number of DC's Golden Age titles) was reintroduced.

Eventually, a handful of other Earths were added to the DC multiverse. These included Earth-Prime for the readers and the creators of DC comics. (Schwartz even made a couple of appearances, and Earth-Prime was the focal point of a JLA/JSA crossover that also included The All-Star Squadron, The Crime Syndicate (the villainous group of Earth-3), and Per Degaton). And funny animal fans shouldn't forget Earth-C (the home of DC's funny animal characters including Captain Carrot and his Amazing Zoo Crew, The Three Mouseketeers, Peter Porkchops, and, presumably, The Fox and The Crow).

Questions abounded

With all these Earths, it became increasingly harder for new readers to understand which Earth some heroes resided on — and even harder for the creative teams to do so. Usually, a team-up between characters from two different Earths would include an explanatory panel about how each lived on a separate Earth that occupied the same space and time, but vibrated at a slightly different frequency from its sister Earth, enabling the tale to take place.

From time to time, most notably in *Brave and the Bold*, characters would cross over with no acknowledgment of their home Earth. Suddenly, even longtime fans didn't know whether a character was from a particular Earth or a duplicate of an earlier character, such as the Supermen of Earth-1 and 2, the Batmen of the two Earths, the Wonder Women, the Green Arrows, *etc.*

The confusion had become so widespread that writer Marv Wolfman proposed a series that would straighten out DC's continuity once and for all. Initially called *The History of the DC Universe*, the series was proposed to then-Executive Editor Dick Giordano by Wolfman and Len Wein in 1980.

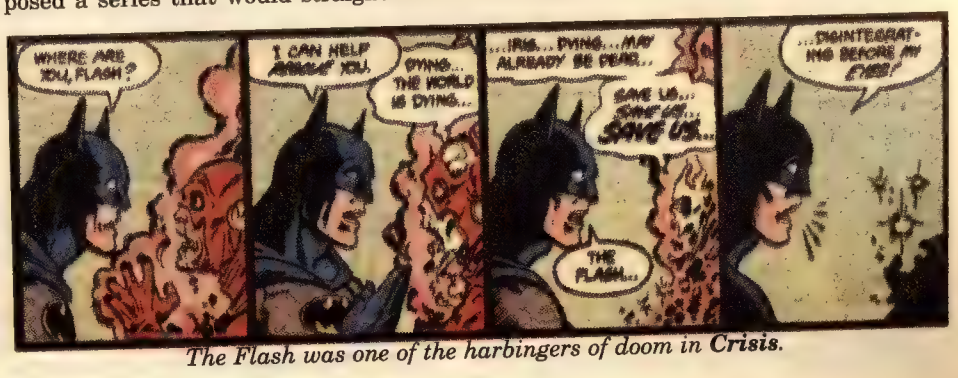
After getting the go-ahead, researcher Peter Sanderson was hired to read all the comics that DC had published throughout its history and take copious notes, a task which took him more than two years. At that point, Wolfman was asked how the project was coming and he pointed out that DC's 50th anniversary was rapidly approaching and that the project would be a great way to celebrate.

They made a little list

As the project progressed, Wolfman, Wein, and Bob Greenberger compiled a list of which characters should live, which should die, and which should be altered by the events of the *Crisis*. The list was submitted to Giordano and President and Publisher Jenette Kahn, who told the trio to be more daring in their choices.

At about this same time, Sanderson's work inspired the creation of a companion series to what would become *Crisis*: *Who's Who in the DC Universe*, a 26-issue series that provided detailed information on all of DC's major characters.

Additional groundwork was laid with cameo appearances of the mysterious Monitor in nearly every DC title at some point during 1984. Originally introduced in *New Teen Titans* #21 (Jul 82), The



The Flash was one of the harbingers of doom in Crisis.

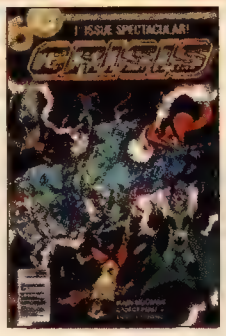
Monitor gathered information on every super-hero and super-villain on each Earth during every time period.

Living on an artificial satellite, he was seldom seen, but his blonde assistant Lyla was glimpsed on several occasions, and The Monitor was portrayed as a provider of advanced technology for various super-villains. His final appearance before *Crisis* #1 was in *DC Comics Presents* #78 (Feb 85), one of only two instances in which he was fully revealed (the other was in *G.I. Combat* #275 (Mar 85).

It begins

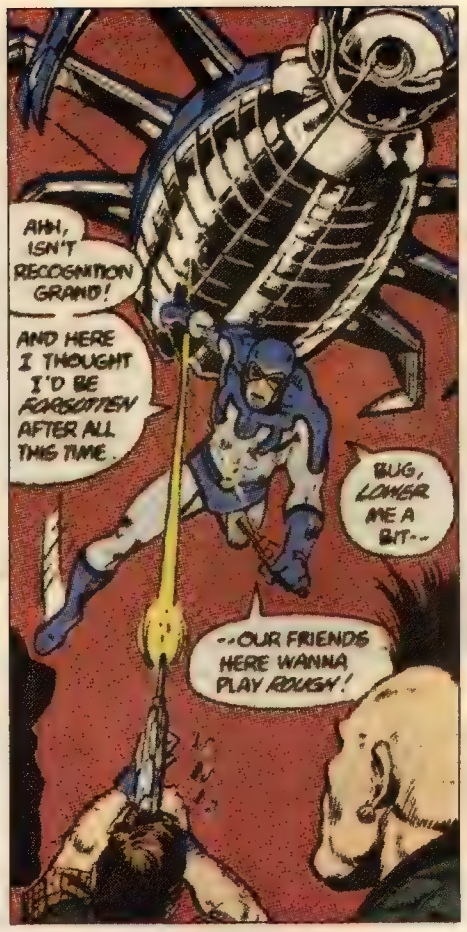
*[**Spoiler Warning:** Most of the remainder of this article discusses **Crisis on Infinite Earths** and its aftermath in detail. Turn to Page 77 if you haven't read the series yet or are waiting for the limited-edition hardcover collection shipping from DC in December.]*

'Crisis' #1. Beginning with *Crisis on Infinite Earths* #1 (Apr 85), The Monitor took a more active role in attempting to halt the advances of his opposite number, The Anti-Monitor. (He was referred to in early issues as "my opposite number," "the enemy," and other enigmatic names, but is referred to throughout this article by the name he came to be known by.) The Anti-Monitor's depredations had already begun with the destruction of numerous alternate Earths which readers hadn't seen prior to the events of *Crisis* #1.



The first issue began with a bang, a Big Bang, to be exact, as the multiverse was born at the dawn of time. The scene swiftly changed to an unnumbered or lettered Earth which met its destruction in just two pages. Pariah, a character who was doomed to watch the destruction of Earth after Earth, was introduced, and the scene swiftly shifted to Earth-3, where **The Crime Syndicate** met its end defending their planet. The only survivor of the disaster was Alexander Luthor, the son of **Alex Luthor** and **Lois Lane** of that Earth, who was sent through the vibrational barrier in a prototype device. The baby was recovered by The Monitor.

The rest of issue was taken up with the missions of Lyla's super-powered alter-ego, Harbinger, to gather heroes from several different Earths and times to serve The Monitor. To do this in a timely manner, Harbinger was able to split herself into multiple duplicates. During this process, one of her multiple selves was taken over by one of The Anti-Monitor's shadow demons, an act that would lead to her betrayal of her mentor later in the series.



Among the heroes and villains gathered by Harbinger was The Blue Beetle (above), a character published by Charlton Comics who had never appeared in the DC universe before. This paved the way for the introduction of other Charlton characters to the DC universe (their Earth, for the short time it existed, was Earth-4).

Back to the future

'Crisis' #2. *Crisis* #2 (May 85) began with visits to the time of the cave-boy Anthro, the 30th century and the Legion of Super-Heroes, and the present day, where Batman encountered a ghostly image of The Flash which disintegrated before his eyes. The scene shifted to The Monitor's satellite, where he explained the Crisis — which, according to him, had consumed more than 1,000 universes at that point — to the assembled heroes and then sent them on their missions to defend a group of large machines in various eras on, presumably, various Earths. This issue, those missions included a visit to the time of Kamandi (but it was not revealed which Earth nor which century) and to Arion's Atlantis.

The Monitor asked Lyla to bring him the Luthor baby, who she discovered had aged several years between the time of his arrival on the satellite and when she went to get him, an actual time of only a day or so. The Psycho Pirate was taken from Atlantis by The Anti-Monitor, who quickly turned the villain into his willing sycophant, which led The Monitor to call for the creation of the new Dr. Light. The issue ended with Harbinger reporting to The Anti-Monitor on The Monitor's plans.

Death in the old West and the 30th century

'Crisis' #3. The anti-matter cloud that had already destroyed 1,000 universes began to menace Earth-1. In the present day, the heroes fought as best they could, and The Flash paid another visit to this era with a sinister warning. Two more missions of the initial group of heroes gathered by The Monitor were revealed, beginning with a visit to World War II and the tiny European country of Markovia on another unspecified Earth, where Sgt. Rock's Easy Company, The Haunted Tank, and **The Losers** put in appearances. The latter group, along with new Easy Company character **Flower**, were killed by The Anti-Monitor's shadow demons. During the battle, The Blue Beetle was injured and The Monitor returned him to Earth-4. Solovar, king of Earth-1's Gorilla City, was gravely injured in Kamandi's time and returned to his hidden jungle city.

The fourth machine was located in 1879 on Earth-1, based on clues dropped by Jonah Hex in reference to Green Lantern John Stewart. ("Don't you remember the green costume on thet hombre? It's the same one we saw on another guy who called himself a lantern or somethin'.") The anti-matter cloud took the life of

(Continues on Page 36)

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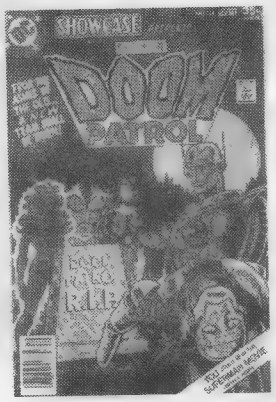

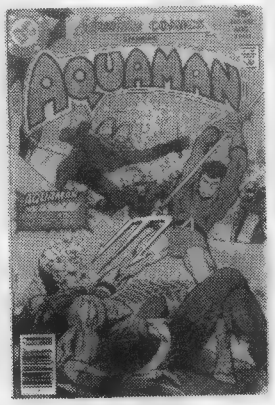

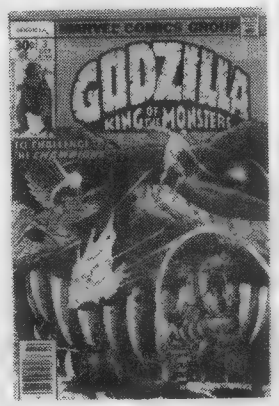

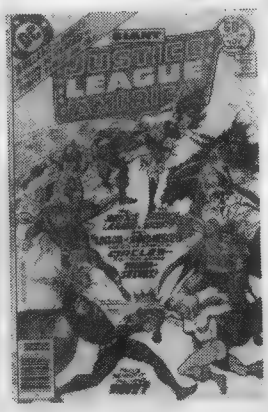

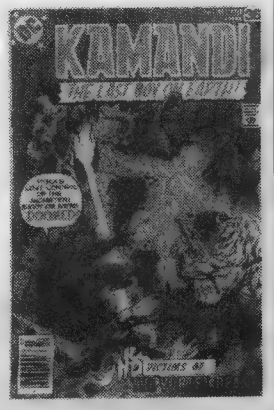

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Sal Buscema
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Spectacular Spiderman #37

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Avengers # Annual #9

George Perez
****Avengers #160-165, 166-168, 170-174, 181, 183-185, 191, 192, 194-201 (Especially #161, 167, 171, 181)
Avengers Ann. #8 (int. pages #167) (cover to Kovac TPBK)
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(centerfold from JLA #195)
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*Marvels #0-4 (any splashes or nice panel pages, please call)
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(various pages considered)

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(also #19-25)

Alex Schomburg
Invaders annual #1
(also Human Torch pages)

Jim Starlin
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Joe Staton
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Dave Wenzel
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Wally Wood
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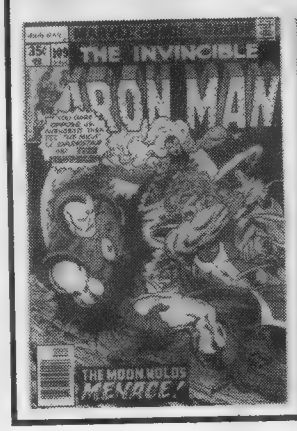
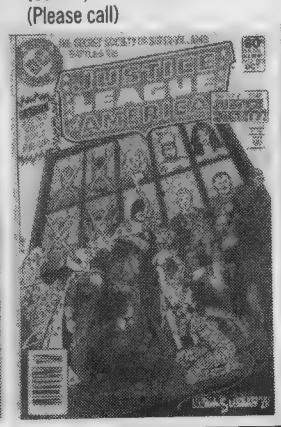
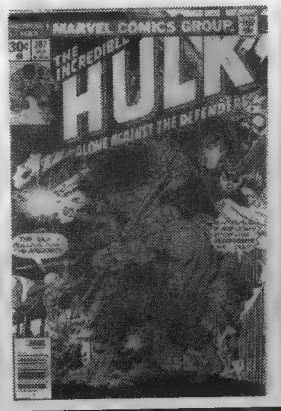
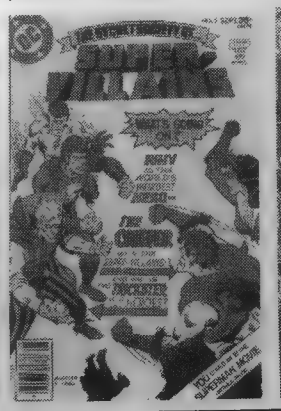
Ron Wilson
Marvel Two In One #16

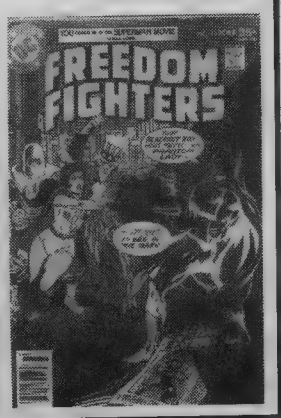
Unknown Artists
Invaders #41
Marvel's Greatest Comics #64
Marvel Spotlight #12 (Son of Satan)
Super Villain Team-up #15 (Doom vs. Red Skull)











CRISIS
(From Page 34)

Western hero **Nighthawk**.

The issue concluded with a visit to the 30th century, where **Kid Psycho** was consumed by the cloud, and The Monitor watched the cloud continue to grow, as he began to put his plan in motion to save the remaining Earths.

The end of Earths 1 and 2

'Crisis' #4. Discussions began with Batgirl and Supergirl on heroism, then Steve Dayton and John Constantine in a similar conference. One more Earth, Earth-6, was quickly introduced and destroyed, but not before Pariah could rescue one member of its super-powered royal family, Lady Quark. It was also established at this point that only four more Earths (and their universes) remained.

The Monitor continued his work with

the creation of the new Dr. Light by bombarding Japanese astronomer Kimiyo Hoshi with a solar flare from the star Vega. As a rapidly aging Alexander Luthor watched her on a monitor, Harbinger steeled herself for the task of killing The Monitor. The scene shifted to The Anti-Monitor's lair, where he and The Psycho Pirate abducted The Red Tornado from Earth-1.

Another of The Monitor's machines was located on Earth-2 in the time of Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table, where Firestorm and Killer Frost journeyed and were joined by The Shining Knight and observed by Vandal Savage. After battling a group of shadow demons, the group (as well as all the

groups in all the other time periods and Earths) observed demons forming one gigantic shadow demon. At the same time, one more of The Monitor's machines materialized on present-day Earth-1, where the new Dr. Light defended it.

The scene shifted again to The Monitor's satellite, where Pariah found himself facing the enigmatic being. **The Monitor** revealed most of his plans to Pariah before Harbinger fired an energy blast at near-point-blank range, shattering The Monitor's chest, resulting in his death. As Pariah watched and the issue ended, Earth-1 and Earth-2 appeared to be destroyed.

Almost an amalgamation

'Crisis' #5. The cover (left) gave some clue to the *actual* fate of Earth-1 and Earth-2, showing a pair of semi-merged Earths with head shots of some of the heroes and villains of the respective Earths, as well. As the issue opened, The Anti-Monitor questioned why his strength hadn't increased with the destruction of the two Earths as it had with each previous destruction. It was also established that he had captured The Flash, "the only being capable of traversing dimensions unaided." Pariah and Lyla learned of The Monitor's final plans, which Lyla had set in motion by killing her mentor and setting his energies free.

Those energies were used to form a netherverse ,where Earth-1 and Earth-2 and all their respective planets resided temporarily. In his haste to save the planets, The Monitor had made all time one on each planet, so that cavemen interacted with Legionnaires, but the last of The Monitor's energies had been used to calm each planet's populace. As The Monitor's taped comments came to an end, a fully grown Alexander Luthor, clad in golden armor, came into view and explained what his part in the rest of the adventure would be.

In one of the largest crowd scenes ever, nearly every hero and villain from every era of each Earth was gathered onto The Monitor's satellite, where Alexander Luthor, Harbinger, and Pariah asked for their help in battling The Anti-Monitor. While the super-heroes and villains went back to the two Earths to make up their minds, the scene shifted to Oa, home of the Guardians of the Universe, where a contingent of their Green Lantern Corps arrived in a spaceship to discover why their rings weren't working.

(Continues on Page 40)

Referring to 'Crisis': Artist George Pérez

Pérez

Prolific artist George Pérez was able to indulge himself in the 12 issues of *Crisis on Infinite Earths*, where he could add all sorts of characters to the background of many of the panels. When asked what he used for references, he pointed out that he had drawn most of the major characters at one point or another by 1985, and joked that DC staffers "could tell what issue of *Who's Who in the DC Universe* had come out by the time I was working on a given issue by what minor characters were lurking in the background."

Pérez added that he provided the visualization of the new characters introduced in *Crisis* — the new Dr. Light, Lady Quark, Pariah, Harbinger, The Monitor, and The Anti-Monitor — based on Marv Wolfman and Len Wein's descriptions.

"Drawing all those characters was a dream come true. *Crisis* #11 was my most hands-on issue plot-wise, as I got to draw the character reactions to the new Earth," Pérez said. "The deaths of Supergirl and The Flash were the highlight of my work, as we were taking chances with some pretty major characters."

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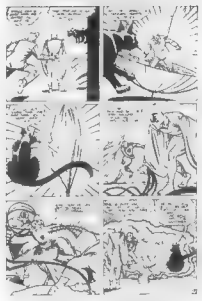

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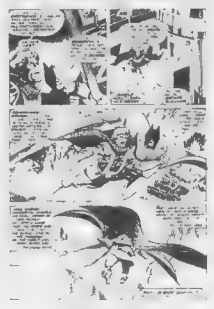

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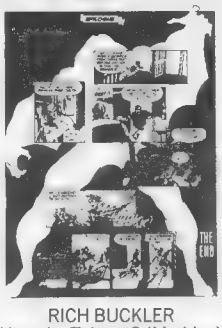

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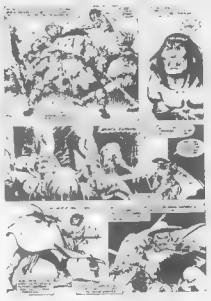

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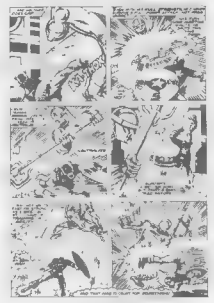

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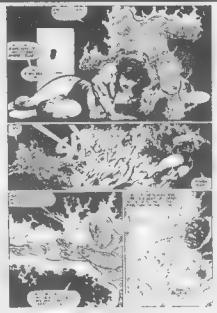

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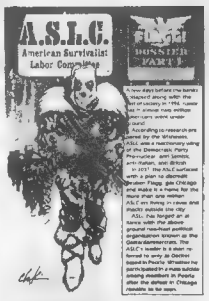

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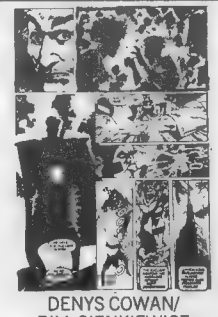

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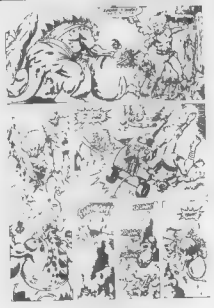
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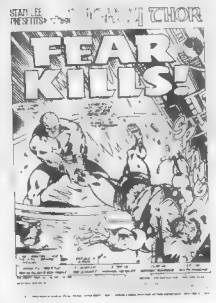

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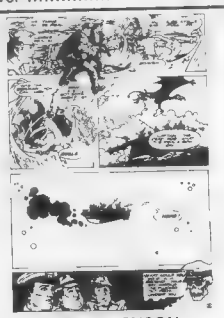
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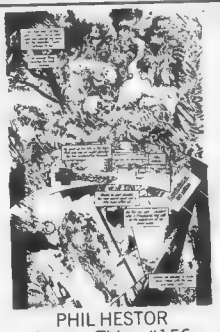
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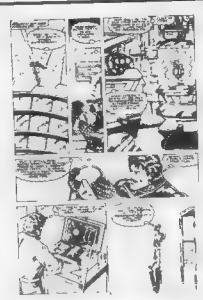
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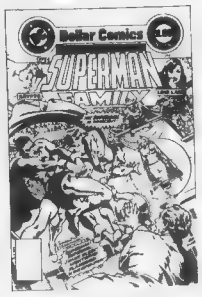

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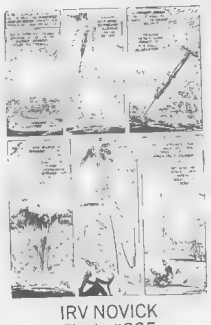
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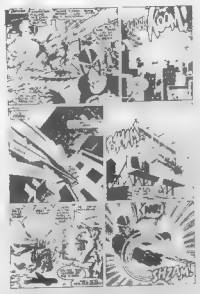
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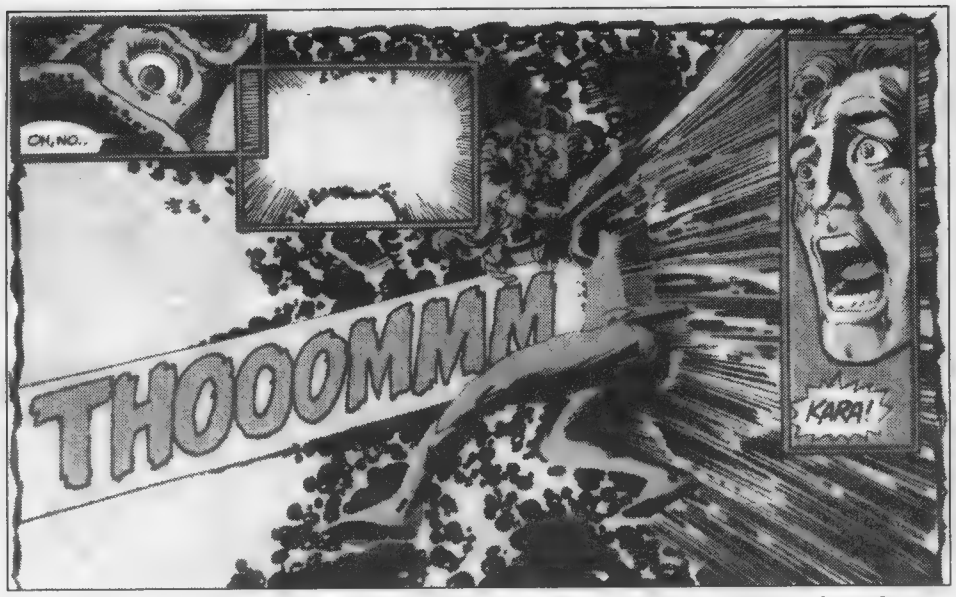


The "thooommm" heard 'round the DC universe (above) had an aftermath (right).

CRISIS

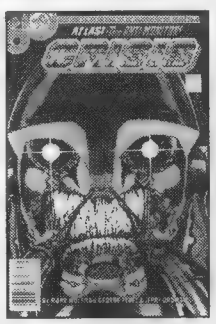
(From Page 36)

The group found The Guardians held in stasis and were then hit by a blast of emerald energy.

As heroes and villains continued to debate their course of action, The Anti-Monitor sent The Red Tornado to Earth-1, where he attacked as the elemental force he would later become. During the battle, Wildcat's legs were shattered by a lightning bolt and The Red Tornado was deactivated by a concerted effort of Zatanna, Johnny Thunder's Thunderbolt, Sargon the Sorcerer, and Dr. Fate. Alexander Luthor recruited a small group of heroes for a mission to save the remaining three Earths (S, X, and 4). The issue ended with The Anti-Monitor revealing himself for the first time to The Flash and Psycho Pirate and a visit to Earth-X where The Freedom Fighters confronted their own anti-matter cloud.

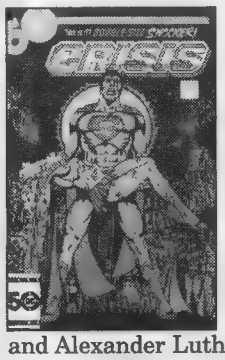
Saving the other three Earths

'Crisis' #6. The Anti-Monitor increased The Psycho Pirate's powers in order to control the populace of the remaining three Earths. His attack on The Monitor's satellite, begun in #5, continued, ultimately destroying it, but not before Harbinger had transported the small group of heroes to other Earths and herself and Alexander Luthor to a barren rock floating in space. Meanwhile, The Golden Age Atom tried to comfort the paralyzed Wildcat, while Wildcat's friend, Yolanda Montez, observed from a nearby window and resolved to become the new Wildcat in honor of the fallen hero. Brainiac began his program of recruiting villains of various Earths to his own nefarious ends, a plan which would come to fruition in #9.



As the small groups of heroes tried to save the populace of each of the remaining three Earths, they observed a large, ghostly image of Harbinger in the sky. Harbinger used all her remaining energies to draw the remaining three universes into the netherverse housing Earth-1 and Earth-2, resulting in her reverting to the powerless Lyla. Now, five Earths shared the same space and were slowly merging into one. This would result in their eventual destruction, if something wasn't done to stop it.

Death of a heroine



'Crisis' #7. Although a promotional poster of its cover, as well as extensive press coverage, had revealed her fate, many fans were unprepared for *Crisis on Infinite Earths* #7, in which **Supergirl** gave up her life. Pariah joined Lyla and Alexander Luthor on the barren rock that overlooked the merging Earths, as the issue opened.

While representatives of the remaining Earths — Superman of Earth-1, Superman of Earth-2, Captain Marvel of Earth-S, Uncle Sam of Earth-X, Blue Beetle of Earth-4, and Lady Quark of Earth-6 — were gathered by Pariah, Lyla, and Alexander Luthor, Brainiac continued to gather villains into his spaceship.

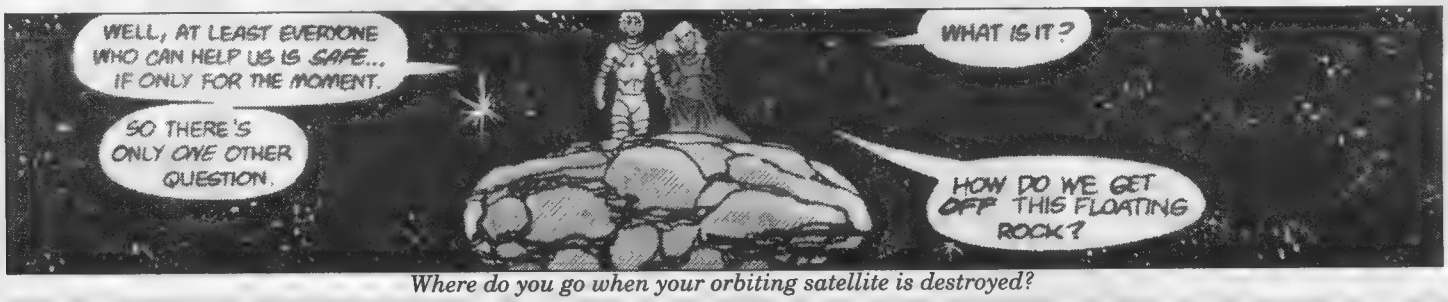
The heroes' meeting provided an opportunity to reveal origins of the multiverse, Pariah, The Monitor, The Anti-Monitor, and Harbinger. Lyla said that, when the Oan Krona attempted to look at the creation of the universe at the dawn of time (as originally told in *Green Lantern* #40), he not only unleashed evil in the universe, he caused the splitting of the single universe into an infinite number of universes.

The only world *not* duplicated in the positive matter universe was Oa. Its duplicate, Qward, was in the anti-matter universe. The Oan's judgment of Krona and their creation of first The Manhunters and, later, The Green Lantern Corps, was also summarized. Lyla's story continued with the creation of The Monitor and The Anti-Monitor. (This was the first time the name was used for the character.)

The Anti-Monitor's creation of both his thunderers and shadow demons (a transformed group of especially evil thunderers) was explained, as were The Monitor's studies. After the two battled for a million years, they were each thrown into suspended animation for nine billion years by a simultaneous attack on each other.

Pariah took up the story at this point, beginning with his origins as a scientist on an Earth in another universe. Like Krona, he'd wanted to observe the creation of the universe at the dawn of time and created an anti-matter chamber in which to observe cosmic forces at work. He believed that his introduction of anti-matter into the positive-matter universe had created the anti-matter cloud that destroyed universes (his being the first destroyed). He felt his experiments had re-awakened The Anti-Monitor and The Monitor. The destruction of Pariah's universe created a void that the anti-matter universe expanded into, increasing The

(Continues on Page 42)



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103. Fantastic Four Annual 16-22, 26, FF vs. X-Men 1-4 avg. VF+.....12.00
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106. Fantasy Masterpieces 1-11 avg. VG/FN.....34.00
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108 Fantasy Masterpieces 1-11. 1 is G, 2-11 avg. VG/VG+.....24 00
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136. Howard The Duck 1-23, Annual 1 avg. VF/NM..20.00
137. Howard The Duck 1-21, 23. Annual 1 avg. VF++.....16.00
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140. Hulk 105, 109, Ann. 4 VG+.....14.00
141. Hulk 106-108 avg VG.....12.00
142. Hulk 107 FN-, 110 VG/FN.....7.00
143. Hulk 110 FN/VF, 114 FN/VF, 115 FN/VF.....15.00
144 Hulk 111 VF-, 112 VF/NM, 117 VF, 180 VF-.....29.00
145. Hulk 111, 116, 118, 122, 133, 141, 144, 148, 160, 163, 170, 171, 173, 174, 191, 193, 204, 211, 214, 223, 233, 237, 240, 241, 242, Annual 6 avg. VG+.....14.00
146. Hulk 120, 140, 164, 170, 171, 173-175, 200, 223, 240, 243, 244, Annual 6 avg. VF-.....18.00
147. Hulk 137, 140-142, 144, 146-148, 151-155, 158, 159, 166, 167, 170, 173-175. 1st 5 avg. VG+, others avg. VF.....25.00
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152 Invaders 4-7, 9, 12, 15, 19, 20, 23-28, 30, 32, 33, 38 Annual 1, Giant-Size 1 avg. VF.....27.00
153 Iron Man. 37 different issues from 26 to 130. Annual 2, 3 Giant-Size 1 (40 issues total) avg. VG.....20.00
154. Iron Man, 16 different issues from 54 to 129, Annual 1-3, Giant-Size 1 (20 issues total) avg. FN/VF 14 00
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174. Lois Lane 12 VG-, 16 VG-, 20 VG-.....27.00
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177 Lois Lane 67. 74, 79, 80, 82, avg G/G+.....9.00
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180. Looney Tunes 145, 181, 185, 204 avg. G-.....3 00
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182. Man-Thing 1, 2, 5, 6-11, 13-21 avg.FN+.....14 00
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Bulk Comic Lots

Exact shippping required

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350. 300 different Marvel & DC comics, our choice. avg NM.....34 00
351 300 different 1970's comics, our choice avg VF (includes at least 25 #1 issues).....89 00
352 300 different 1970's comics. 1-3 of a #, at least 150 different, avg. VF (Includes at least 35 #1 Issues).....69

CRISIS

(From Page 40)

Anti-Monitor's power to the point at which he realized that, by destroying all the positive matter universes, he could triumph over The Monitor.

Lyla resumed the narration, detailing The Monitor's observations of the heroes and villains over the past year, along with his rescue of a girl adrift at sea — a girl who would grow up to become Lyla.

After these revelations, a group of heroes was assembled to take the battle to the anti-matter universe.

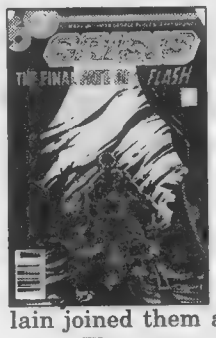
The heroes were, for the most part, the most powerful beings on their respective Earths and included both Supermen, Supergirl, Firestorm, Mon-El, Lady Quark, Jade, Captain Atom, Martian Manhunter, the Golden Age Green Lantern, Dr. Light, The Ray, Wonder Woman, and Wildfire.

After going through a dimensional rift opened by Alexander Luthor, the group discovered that their powers didn't work normally in the anti-matter fortress of The Anti-Monitor and even such powers as invulnerability were weakened. Superman of Earth-1 and the new Dr. Light were the first to discover The Anti-Monitor's solar collector that was reducing the vibrational frequencies between the Earths, causing them to merge.

By destroying the collector, they could stop the merging and save the Earths. As he moved to destroy the machine, Superman was attacked by The Anti-Monitor, and Supergirl flew to his rescue. Her heroism inspired Dr. Light, who to that point, had been a reluctant participant, at best. Supergirl destroyed The Anti-Monitor's outer armor and slammed the villain into his solar collector, destroying it.

As **Supergirl** was about to deliver her final blow, Dr. Light called to her, distracting her long enough for The Anti-Monitor to hit her with a concentrated blast of anti-matter and escape. The remainder of the issue was taken up with Supergirl's death scene and funeral.

Bury me not ...



'Crisis' #8. Death was the order of the day, as the cover promised "The Final Fate of the Flash." The Psycho Pirate told The Flash that he was scared of what The Anti-Monitor was going to do. In a new suit of armor, the villain joined them and revealed his new plan. The scene shifted to Apokolips, where Darkseid had used his energies to cloak his world from The Anti-Monitor and then sat back to see who would triumph.

Dissent among the Guardians of the Universe was the next topic addressed, laying the groundwork for the return of Guy Gardner. The heroes took a short breather, as The Legion analyzed the situation with five Earths that were no longer merging — but that needed to be separated if they were going to survive long-term. Other heroes paid a visit to the JLA satellite, where T.O. Morrow was drafted into service to restore his creation, The Red Tornado. The satellite was destroyed during these activities, Morrow was teleported by Brainiac, and Blue Devil found himself a guest of The Omega Men, while the rest of the heroes managed to get to safety before the satellite blew up.

The story returned to Qward, where The Flash escaped, captured Psycho Pirate, and turned him against The Anti-Monitor. After turning a number of thunderers against The Anti-Monitor, **The Flash** entered The Anti-Monitor's anti-matter cannon and destroyed it, giving up his own life.

With the loss of his ultimate weapon, The Anti-Monitor absorbed the energy of his own universe to travel back to the dawn of time, a trip that attracted the attention of The Spectre, who could only scream as he realized that he couldn't stop The Anti-Monitor alone. The issue concluded with a quote from William Knox in tribute to The Flash.

Here a villain, there a villain

'Crisis' #9. George Pérez' busiest cover graced an issue in which the villains took over Earth-S, Earth-X, and Earth-4, holding them ransom for control of Earth-1 and Earth-2. Guy Gardner was restored as a Green Lantern, and an anti-matter flare killed several Guardians, as the issue began. Before the villains attacked the three Earths, they were briefed by Lex Luthor of Earth-1 and Brainiac, who had destroyed the Lex Luthor of Earth-2. After constructing an

Don't have a Crisis, but prepare to traverse multiple pages to Page 76, where this story continues.

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Mastering 'Crisis':
A visit with Marv Wolfman

By Matt Brady

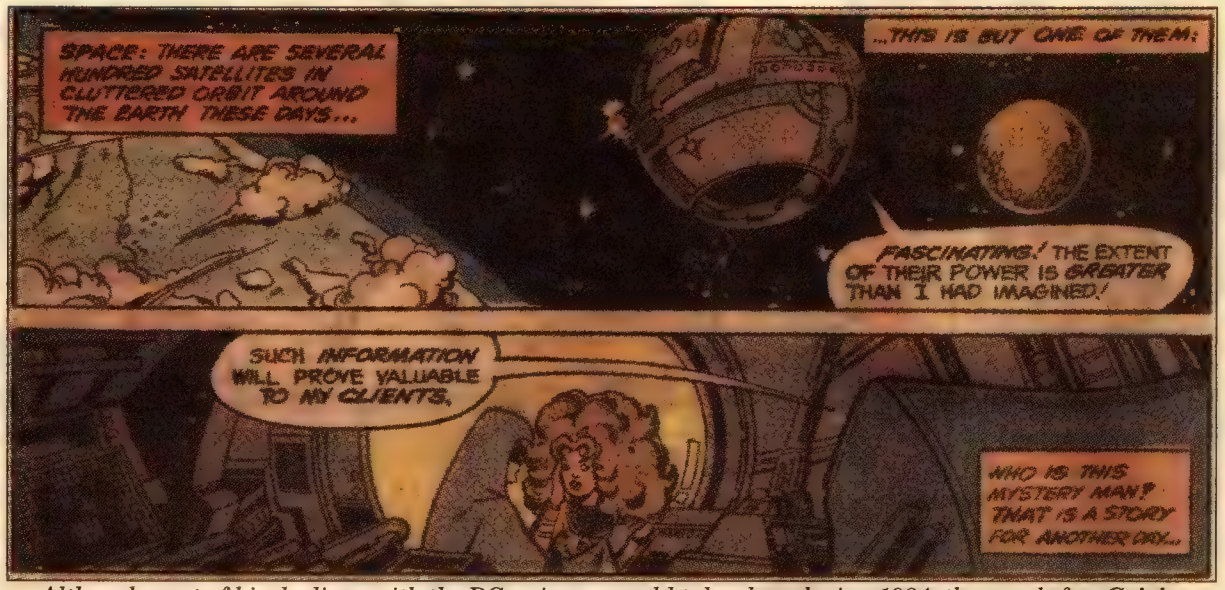
'Crisis on Infinite Earths': The Instigator

"Crisis was something I had wanted to do from my earlier fan days in order to 'fix' the DC universe"
— Marv Wolfman

It was 1985, and the DC universe was a mess. The victim of decades of countless alternate Earths stories, the DC universe had become a complex morass of alternate heroes, alternate histories, and convoluted story lines. Over the years, if a creator came up with a story that didn't fit mainline DC continuity, it was deemed to have taken place on an alternate Earth, where it could develop fully without a chance of harming current continuity.

Flash #123 in 1961 introduced the concept of multiple Earths, separated by mere vibrational frequencies. Readers who had been on board since that landmark issue understood the concepts perfectly. Earth-1 held the modern DC heroes; Earth-2 was home to the Golden Age DC heroes; Earth-3 was (for want of a better term) an "opposite" version of Earth-1 (with heroes as villains and villains as heroes); Earth-S was home to such Fawcett heroes as Captain Marvel; Earth-C was home to Captain Carrot and the Amazing Zoo Crew; *etc., etc., etc.*

However, try to explain all that to a new reader who just wanted to pick up a DC comic book for a good story. You couldn't. And no new readers meant no new money for the company. Something had to be done. Something drastic. Taking its name from classic *Justice League* stories, where the JLA would travel to an alternate Earth to save it, *Crisis on Infinite Earths* was born as a means to reduce and simplify the convoluted history of the DC universe.



Although most of his dealings with the DC universe would take place during 1984, the year before ***Crisis on Infinite Earths*** *began, The Monitor made his first "appearance" in* ***New Teen Titans*** *#21 (Jul 82, above) and his second (along with Lyla's first) in* ***New Teen Titans Annual*** *#2 (83, below left).*

From fanboy to universe remodeler

From the outset, *Crisis on Infinite Earths* had its genesis in the mind of Marv Wolfman — but not Marv Wolfman, comic-book writer. *Crisis* began long before that, somewhere in the recesses of the mind of Marv Wolfman, comic-book fan.

"*Crisis* was something I had wanted to do from my earlier fan days in order to 'fix' the DC universe," Wolfman said. "The Monitor, under a different name but serving the exact same purpose, was a character I created when I did fanzines. When I realized that I would never do this type of maxi-series at DC because it was just too big, I put him into *The New Teen Titans* as the mysterious Monitor, a character who was playing behind the scenes for his own purpose."

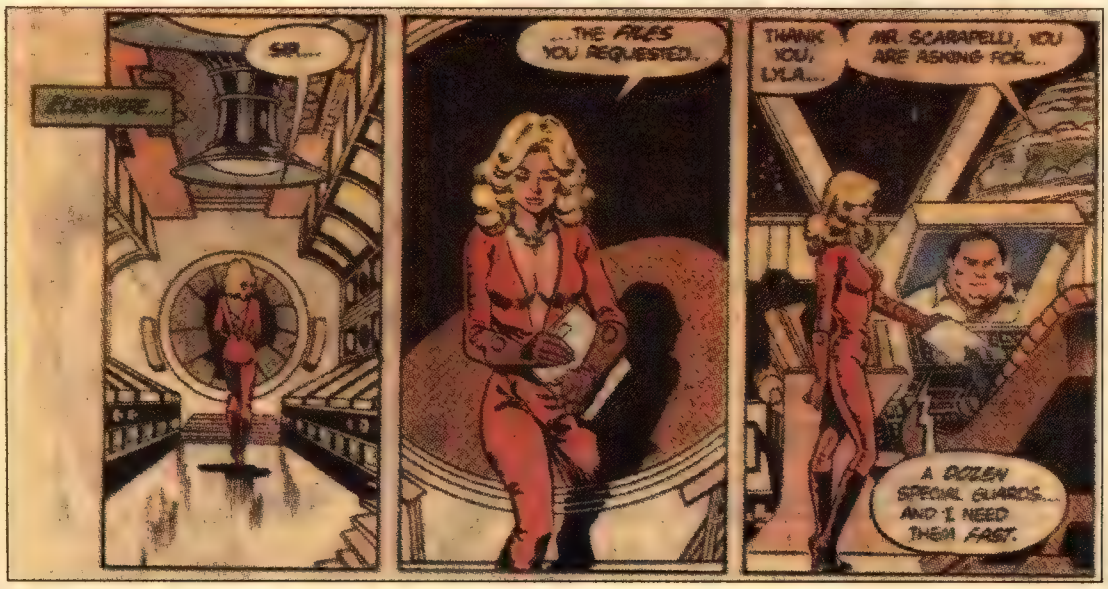
As Wolfman ascended the editorial ladder at DC however, *Crisis* came back to mind, and, to his surprise, when he pitched it in the early '80s, it was accepted. The question then became when should DC publish the series that would streamline the universe as the DC characters knew it? "The original concept of *Crisis* was going to come out several years earlier," Wolfman said. "However, we decided that we needed to do more research for the series and go over all of the DC characters with a fine-toothed comb. We hired Peter Sanderson to do that and, at the same time, we decided to work on DC's *Who's Who*. We figured that this would be a good way of accomplishing all of our research for the series.

"Needless to say, the research took us a lot longer than we expected. The office began to get concerned, because we were spending money without any tangible result — and in 1983, when all the information came in, they said we could start the series.

'That's when I pointed out that DC's 50th anniversary was coming up in a year and a half, and that it'd be a great coup for *Crisis* to take advantage of. The office agreed, and we were able to start working on the plots right then, a year and a half before it started coming out."

With *Crisis* given the green light, Wolfman quickly brought the pieces of the story back together. "I had to jury-rig the Monitor stories that were done in *Titans* to make sense with the rest of *Crisis*," Wolfman said. "That allowed the *Titans* stories to serve as a prologue of sorts to the series. This was something that I always believed in and always thought would be enormously big. Because of that, it was something that had been on my mind for years and years and was relatively easy to crank out, rather than having to turn out a maxi-series because the previous one sold. *Crisis* was to serve a very specific purpose: clean up the DC universe make it accessible to new readers."

(Continues on Page 46)



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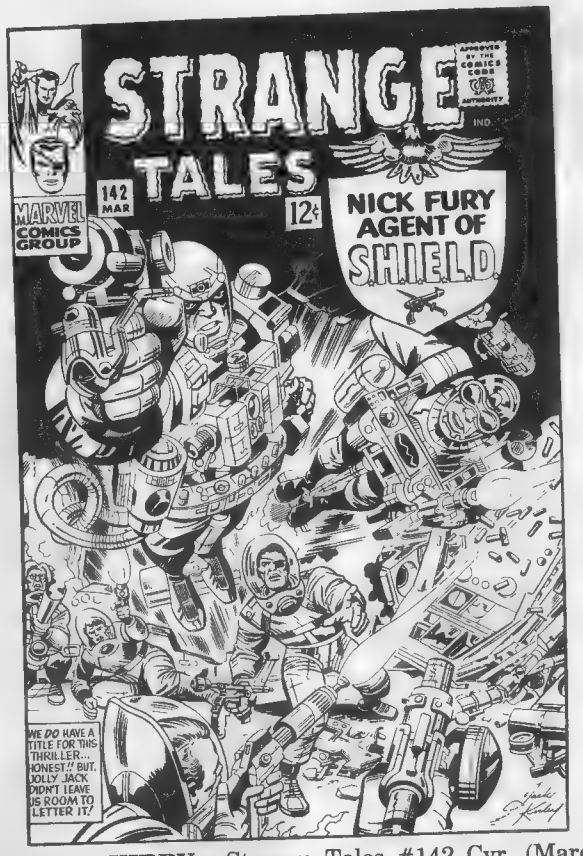

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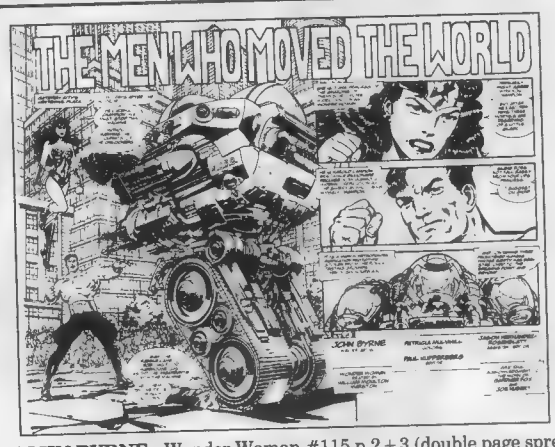

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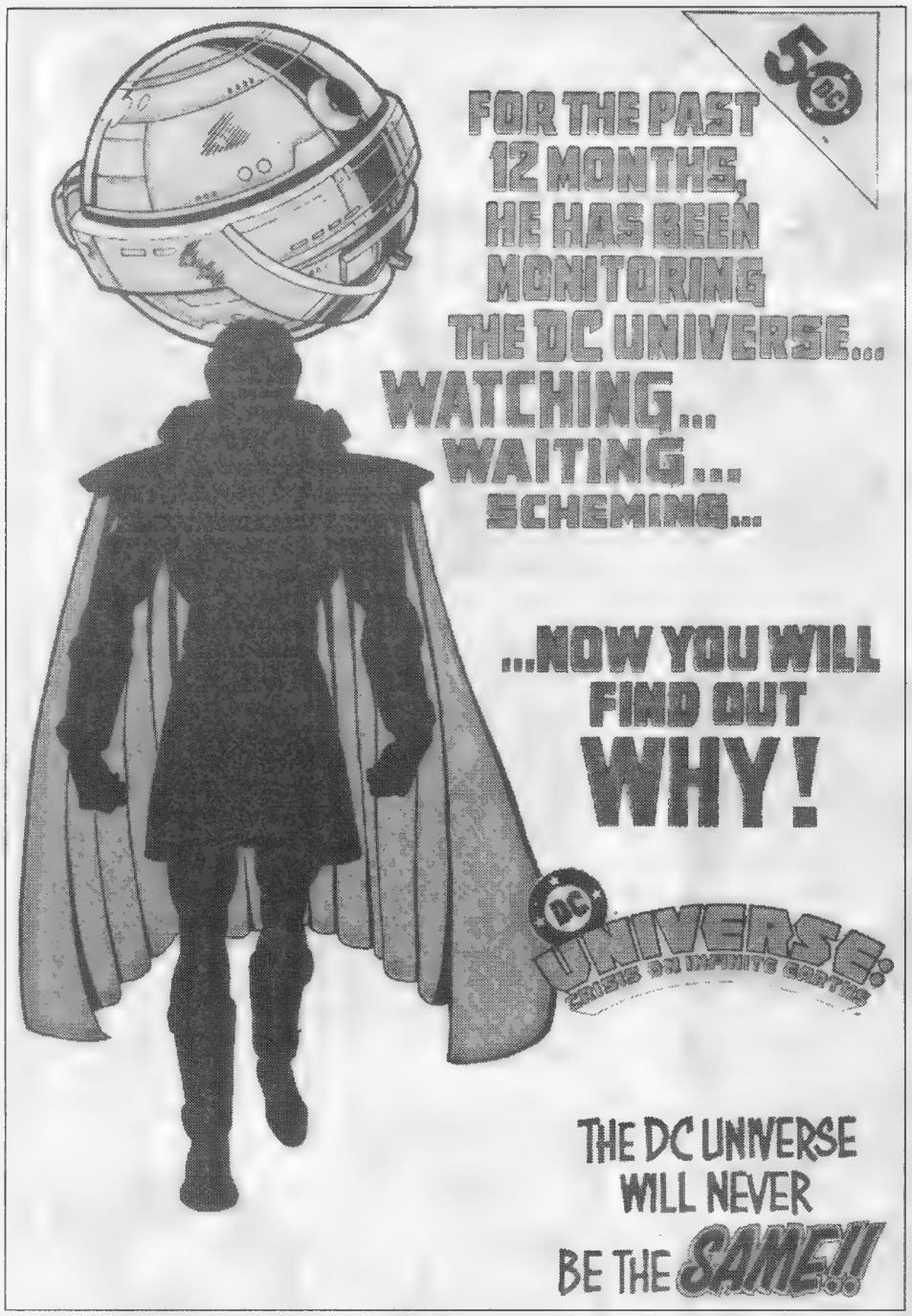

Before it was ***Crisis on Infinite Earths****, the maxi-series was known as* ***Universe: Crisis on Infinite Earths****, in a couple of DC house ad in late 1984.*

WOLFMAN
(From Page 44)

Somebody's gonna die

As the storyline of *Crisis* solidified between Wolfman and penciller George Pérez, so did *Crisis*' most controversial feature — the hit list, characters that would die in *Crisis*.

Acknowledging that every character was someone's favorite, Wolfman and company knew they had some hard decisions to make. "Several of us sat down together — myself, Bob Greenberger, Len Wein, and a few others," Wolfman said. "We started talking about certain characters who were essentially dopplegangers who had no real purpose in the coming DC universe — and characters who would be, for lack of a better term, cannon fodder that really served no purpose, if we were going to start cleaning up the universe."

Cannon fodder or renowned hero, killing a certain female character in the series made fans across the comics world sit up and take notice. Nary a tear was shed when the Bug-Eyed Bandit bought it, but the death of Supergirl moved fans to tears. Her death is something Wolfman accepts full responsibility for. "I had proposed that we kill Supergirl, almost jokingly, but with a strong reason behind it," Wolfman said. "My feeling was that Superman needed to be the sole survivor of Krypton. By 1984, the entire population of Krypton had been on Earth at least once, and it seemed that only about three Kryptonians were actually killed when Krypton blew up. The rest had survived in various ways, and that all took away from the unique nature of Superman."

While Wolfman may have suggested Kara Zor-El should die, he hardly expected the response he received from upstairs. Management agreed, and Kara's fate was sealed.

Other characters who would be killed in *Crisis* came from suggestions from two main sources: Editors, who could ask for a certain character to be killed if they were planning on introducing a new version; and "Upstairs" — management whose names have faded from Wolfman's memory (lucky for them), who could suggest major heroes be killed for reasons of their own.

Additionally, heroes with two versions, such as a Golden Age and Silver Age Green Arrow, both named Oliver Queen, could either be merged into one hero for the new universe, or have one version killed, leaving one for the future.

One of those characters whose actual "hitman" remains hidden in the mists of time is the harbinger of the Silver Age — The Flash. "I honestly don't know who put him on the list, but, once we saw The Flash on the list, we didn't expect him to be approved, since he was the first of the Silver Age characters, but he stayed," Wolfman said.

"To me, all three Flashes could have existed simultaneously, because that was a grandfather-father-son dynamic I would have played to, had I been involved. However, I was asked to kill Barry, so I did that. While I couldn't save The Flash outright, what I *was* able to do was plant something in the death of The Flash that could bring him back and I immediately informed the other editors, in case they decided to do that. However, Wally West was chosen to replace Barry Allen officially, and no editors ever acted on it."

While, 13 years later, it may seem that Wolfman's hit list was indiscriminate, including such notables as The Huntress, Robin of Earth-2, and many "red shirts" such as Prince Ra-Man and Angle Man, he did have standards. "I refused to kill any character that was created in the '40s," Wolfman said. "This may sound fanboyish, and I certainly admit to that on many occasions, but I didn't want to kill any characters who were created before I was born.

"My belief as a writer is that there is almost no reason to ever kill a character, and certainly none to kill someone *else's* character. If you don't like the character, you just don't write it. You don't use it. You write them out of continuity, have them quit, have them leave, or you just don't use them. I'm against a lot of the killing of characters that we've seen in the time since *Crisis*.

"I killed characters that I created specifically to kill in *Crisis*," Wolfman continued. "Kole in the Teen Titans was created to die there, and I knew from the day that she was created that that was what was going to happen. I resented it afterward, because I really fell in love with the character. But that was her purpose originally, so she died.

(Continues on Page 80)

The Monitor paid a visit to The Haunted Tank's ghostly guardian in ***G.I. Combat*** *#274 (Feb 85).*

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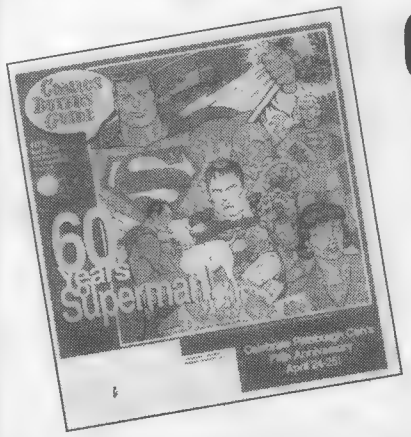

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WYATT EARP
#7 FN $20

(#1) HAVE GUN WILL TRAVEL
#931 FN+ $40

NO TIME FOR SERGEANTS
#914 VF $60

RAT PATROL
#6 FN- $12
#5 FN- $12

MUNSTERS
#15 FN $30

RAWHIDE
#1160 VF+ $100
#1160 FN $45
2 (Gold Key) FN $50

GREEN HORNET
#1 FN $80
#2 FN+ $75
#3 VF+ $100

UNTOUCHABLES
#01-879-210 FN+ ... $45

ROY ROGERS
#26 FN $30

THE REBEL
#1076 FN $30
#1207 FN+ $35
#1262 VF+ $80

EXECUTIVE COLLECTIBLES GALLERY

P.O.Box 589, Roanoke, TX 76262
Phone: (817) 337-1561 Fax: (817) 337-0789

CBG Customer Service Award - 1998

AUCTION 15

Executive Collectibles Gallery, Inc. is proud to present its 15th auction, featuring comic books and comic art! The auction will run from October 1, 1998 and will conclude on FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1998.

This auction will be conducted by telephone, mail and fax, as have our past several auctions.

Please take notice that most of the lots have a reserve (Minimum Bid) amount that is one half of the low estimate. Many are less than this amount, only a few are higher. Remember, you can't get a good deal unless you participate!

Bidders may begin calling to check the current status of any lot, or place a bid once they have registered to participate (registration form and bid sheets available by fax or mail). If you have participated in any of our previous auctions, your bidder number will be the same as it has been in the past. If you do not remember it, please call our office to confirm. Bids can be placed at any time by telephone, mail or fax.

We would also like to take a moment to apologize to those of you that have either consigned to this auction or have expressed interest in participating because we were compelled to change the date of the auction to ensure that all of the lots were accurately graded and photographed. As you may realize, this is a very time consuming process, which prevented us from being able to meet CBG's advertising deadline, we are sorry if this delay has caused anybody an inconvenience in any way.

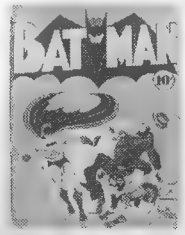
TERMS OF AUCTION

1) Auction lots will be sold to the highest bidder.
2) To place a bid, you must increase the previous high bid by at least 10%.
3) The auction will close on Friday, October 16, 1998 at 6:00 pm CST, or until 15 minutes have passed without us having received a bid. Please try to get your bids in early
4) Bidder numbers must be confirmed prior to October 16, 1998, as we will be very busy on the final day of bidding.
5) Please make all inquiries as to condition, age, content, or size prior to Thursday, October 15, 1998. Lot viewing available by appointment.
6) All merchandise is guaranteed to be genuine unless noted
7) All grading is guaranteed to be accurate. There is a 100% money back provision if customers are not completely satisfied with their purchases. Please note that returns will only be accepted if payment for the lot is received by Executive Collectibles Gallery, Inc. by the payment due date of October 29, 1998. All returns absolutely must be received by Executive Collectibles Gallery, Inc. in the same condition as when sent. Executive Collectibles Gallery, Inc. reserves the right to issue a refund for a single lot returned or for the entire amount of the invoice and request that all items be returned.
8) "Call Backs" are available regarding those lots that have an estimated value of $300 or more. Obviously, we will give the same courtesy call if a bidder has been bidding on more than one lot and the value of at least one of those lots is equal to $300
9) A ten percent (10%) buyer's premium will be added to all successful "hammer" bids. (i.e. A $100 winning bid will cost $110.00, plus any applicable shipping, handling, insurance fees or state taxes) the amount of state tax for Texas is 7.25%. (Tax will not be charged to those participants that have provided Executive with a valid resale number and appropriate signature.)
10) No credit cards will be accepted as payment for lots won in this auction. Acceptable methods of payment are: cash, personal check, bank check, money order, or bank wire (there is a $20 wire transfer fee, $30 for International).
11) Successful bidders will be notified by telephone and via mail to ensure early notification. Please do not call to see if You were a successful bidder until Monday, October 19, 1998 as we will be processing invoices over the weekend
12) Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery of lots paid for, as there is always a back log of orders after our auctions. Please understand that we will make every attempt to see that packages are shipped within a week of us having received clear funds (please allow 10 business days for checks to clear).
13) Placing bids constitutes acceptance of all auction terms and conditions.
14) Executive Collectibles Gallery, Inc. reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids placed by any participant.

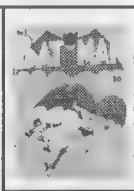
1 - Adventure Comics (DC Comics 1958) #247 GD. 1st appearance Legion of Super-heroes. Comic has a nice fine look to it, but has chews at bottom of book that go through front cover and bottom border of 1st four pages. Estimate $300-$500

2 - Adventure Comics (DC Comics 1959) #267 VF-. 2nd appearance of Legion of Super-heroes. Flat, clean and bright. Estimate $500-$700

3 - Adventure Comics (DC Comics 1959, 1962) #'s 267 GD and 300 VG+. Estimate $100-$150



4 - Batman (DC Comics - Summer 1940) #2 apparent FN. Second issue of this classic title featuring the many adventures of the dynamic duo. Good looking flat, clean copy with supple, cream color interior paper. Cover has nice color. Light restoration to cover, including clean/press, staple support, spine split seal and minor color touch. Attractive Bob Kane cover. Estimate $1500-$2000



5 - Batman (DC Comics 1941) #6 Apparent VG/FN. Bright and alluring cover by Bob Kane. Good colors with light tan pages. Moderate restoration to cover including spine reinforcement and color touch. Estimate $400-$600

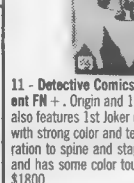
6 - Batman (DC Comics 1943) #15 FN/FN+. Comic has Cat-women story and W.W II genre cover. Good eye appeal with nice colors and supple off-white to cream paper. Some stress tears at staples. Dust shadow at top edge of front cover. Estimate $600-$800

7 - Batman (DC Comics 1943) #19 FN. Alluring black cover. Unrestored copy with deep cover color and fresh off-white pages. Some color flaking at spine area. Estimate $400-$500

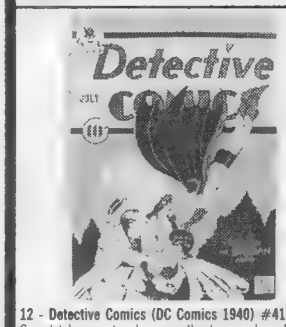
8 - World's Finest Comics (DC Comics Fall, 1941) #3 FN. Featuring the origin and 1st appearance of the Scarecrow. Comic has a great baseball motif cover with DC's 2 heavy hitters Superman and Batman. Rich cover colors with some creasing on front cover that does not break color. Interior paper is supple. Estimate $600-$800

9 - Detective Comics (DC Comics 1939) #34 apparent FN+. Early Batman appearance by Bob Kane. Has the classic Batman splash panel that would be used on origin page in Batman #1. Attractive copy with bright colors and excellent overall appeal. Light to moderate restoration to cover including clean/press, spine split seal at top and light color touch. Also, the name "Ken" written in ink in white area of front cover. Looks better than it sounds. Estimate $1000-$1200

10 - Detective Comics (DC Comics 1940) #37 apparent FN+. Comic features a great Batman cover by Bob Kane and is the last Golden - Age solo Batman story in this title. Flat and clean copy with beautiful colors and light tan interior paper. There is a spine split seal at bottom and tiny support to staple area. From the "Twilight" Collection. Estimate $1300-$1600



11 - Detective Comics (DC Comics 1940) #40 apparent FN+. Origin and 1st appearance of Clay Face. Issue also features 1st Joker cover by Bob Kane. Clean and flat with strong color and terrific eye appeal. Moderate restoration to spine and staple areas. Cover cleaned/pressed and has some color touch at top edge. Estimate $1400-$1800



12 - Detective Comics (DC Comics 1940) #41 FN+. Completely unrestored copy with strong colors. Book is clean, tight and flat with supple interior paper. Estimate $900-$1200

13 - Detective Comics (DC Comics 1940) #42 VG. Tight and flat copy with bold colors. Great overall appearance (appears FN+) with a rat chew at bottom left corner of book that goes through all pages about ⅛ - ¼". Estimate $300-$500

14 - Detective Comics (DC comics 1940) #43 only FN - (due to heavy wear at staples and dust shadow along right edge of book). Alluring cover by Bob Kane. Attractive, flat and bright! Completely unrestored book from the "Twilight" Collection. Estimate $400-$600

15 - Detective Comics (DC Comics 1940) #44 VG+. Great Batman cover by Kane. Strong colors with creamy interior paper. Book has a name at top of front cover in pencil, plus a circular stamp from drug store. Estimate $400-$600

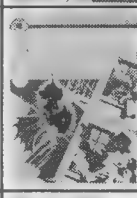
16 - Detective Comics (DC Comics 1940) #45 FN. Text includes the first Joker story for this title. Attractive, flat copy with rich cover colors and light tan interior paper. Back cover has a few tiny holes at spine area (size of pin head. Very insignificant). Great eye appeal. Estimate $700-$900

17 - Detective Comics (DC Comics 1941) #47 FN+. Flat, tight and clean copy with bold cover colors. Light repair work including spine and staple support. Top left corner of back cover also has rice paper support. A real nice looking book with tan pages. Estimate $400-$600

18 - Dectective Comics (DC Comics 1941) #49 only FN (due to heavy staple pull and small tears and tiny hole at top staple). Issue includes the last Clayface appearance for many years. Great looking copy with Batman cover by Kane. Book is clean and flat with good colors and creamy interior paper. Estimate $600-$800

19 - Detective Comics (DC Comics 1941) #51 only VG+ (due to small ¼" chip at bottom of spine). Action packed Batman cover. Deep, rich cover color with good overall eye appeal and supple, cream to off - white pages. Estimate $200-$300

20 - Detective Comics (DC Comics 1941) #54 GD+. Solid unrestored copy. Estimate $150-$250

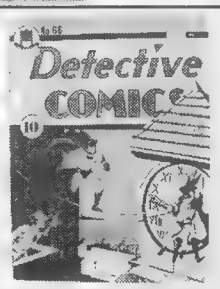


21 - Detective Comics (DC Comics 1941) #56 VG+. Some restoration to cover including clean/press, color touch and corner replacement. Pages supple, tan to cream. Estimate $200-$250

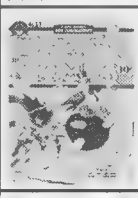
22 - Dectective Comics (DC Comics 1941) #58 VG+ due to color flaking at top corner of spine. Issue includes the 1st appearance of the Penguin. Clean and tight book with very rich cover color. Interior paper is cream color. Completely unrestored copy. Still retains good eye appeal. Estimate $700-$900

23 - Detective comics (DC Comics 1942) #59 apparent VF. 2nd appearance of the Penguin. Jerry Robinson cover. Moderate restoration to cover including clean/press, spine and staple support, chip replacement and color touch. Pages are supple and light tan. Excellent overall eye appeal. Estimate $400-$600

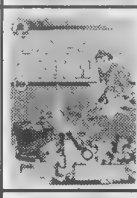
24 - Detective Comics (DC Comics 1942) #65 VG/FN. 2nd appearance of the Boy Commandos by Joe Simon and Jack Kirby. 1st Boy Commandos cover by Simon and Kirby with Batman and Robin drawn by Robinson and Fred Ray. You get four classic artists on one cover. Amazing! A beautiful, clean, flat and tight book with rich color. Fresh off - white interior paper. Excellent overall appearance. Missing a piece about the size of a nickel on top left corner. Estimate $600 - $800



25 - Detective Comics (DC Comics 1942) #66 FN+ (due to minor staple pulls). Origin and 1st appearance of Two - Face. Story has 1 panel depicting a Superman film. Clean, flat and tight with great color. Interior paper is creamy. Excellent overall eye appeal. Estimate $1300-$1600



26 - Detective Comics (DC Comics 1942) #67 apparent FN. 1st Penguin cover. Comic has had heavy restoration, including tape removal, color touch and cleaning/pressing. Has great eye appeal. Estimate $200-$400



27 - Detective Comics (DC Comics 1943) #76 apparent VG. Joker cover and story by Robinson. Cover is cleaned / pressed with repair at staple area. Has supple, off - white pages. Estimate $200-$300

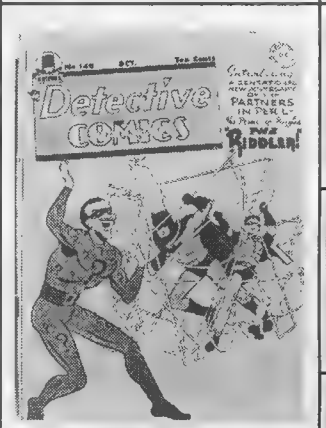
28 - Detective Comics (DC Comics 1944) #85 apparent FN. Great "double" Joker cover by Robinson. Clean and flat copy with good cover color and cream interior pages. Cover has been cleaned/pressed with minor staple support. There is a light 5" corner crease at bottom right corner of front cover. Small name on front cover has been whitened out (hardly noticable). Excellent eye appeal and has fresh, white to off - white pages. Estimate $200-$300

29 - Detective Comics (DC Comics 1944) #88 FN. Flat and clean with bold color. Estimate $200-$250

30 - Detective Comics (DC Comics 1945) #104 FN/VF. Attractive, clean and flat copy with bright colors. Excellent eye appeal. Cream color interior paper. Back cover has small worm hole near top of spine that also goes through last page. Also has clean ¼" tear at right edge of front cover. Estimate $300-$500

31 - Detective Comics (DC Comics 1946) #107 VG+. Unrestored attractive book. Has a 1" "L" shaped tear at bottom of spine. Nice interior paper. Looks VF, save for the tear. Estimate $100-$200

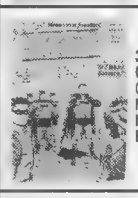
32 - Detective Comics (DC Comics 1947) #122 VG+. 1st Catwoman cover, and a great one at that! Bright banana - yellow cover with good eye appeal. Cream color interior paper. Top staple pull and a little rust on staples. Cover is slightly loose. Estimate $200-$300



33 - Detective Comics (DC Comics 1948) #140 VG/FN. Contains the 1st appearance of the Riddler. Very solid copy with decent eye appeal. Small sliver off right edge of front cover. Completely unrestored. This highly sought - after issue continues to remain rather scarce in any grade. Supple, light tan pages. Estimate $900-$1200

34 - Detective Comics (DC Comics 1948) #142 FN. 2nd appearance of the Riddler. Has Riddler cover and story. Nice eye appeal. Light tan pages. Estimate $250-$350

35 - Detective Comics (DC Comics 1949, 1952) #'s 146, 190. Issue #146 unrestored GD/VG; #190 is an apparent VG with clean/press cover and color touch just at top of spine. Estimate $150-$250



36 - Detective Comics (DC Comics 1955) #225 FR/GD. Origin and 1st appearance of Martian Manhunter. Last page has 3 ½" x 1 ¾" piece cut out. Estimate $200-$400

37 - All American Comics (All American Comics 1941) #27 apparent FN. Issue introduces Green Lantern's sidekick Doiby Dickles. Heavy restoration to cover including clean/press, chip replacement and color touch. Has supple cream colored pages. Estimate $500-$700

38 - Batman (DC Comics 1944) #22 FN/VF. Flat, tight and clean copy with attractive black cover. Interior paper is off - white to cream. Estimate $500-$700

39 - Batman (DC Comics 1944, 1946) #'s 23, 33. #23 has Joker cover and story. Some tape along spine: GD; Issue #33 FR+ (has large chunk out of back cover). Estimate $200-$250

40 - Batman (DC Comics 1944) #24 VF-. Action packed cover as Batman and Robin engage in a chariot race. A beautiful book that is very flat, clean and tight. Bright banana - yellow cover with cream color interior paper. There is a soft 3" corner crease at top right corner of front cover. Estimate $500-$700

41 - Batman (DC Comics 1945) #31 VG/VG+. "Infinity" cover. Cover has bright colors. Some spine reinforcement and a ½" chip out of spine. A light water stain noticable at top of pages and back cover. Estimate $150-$250

42 - Batman (DC Comics 1945) #32 VG+. Origin of Robin retold. Has Joker story. Good looking book with deep red cover. Cover has a date stamp and chipping to top right corner and a sliver out of right edge. Estimate $200-$250

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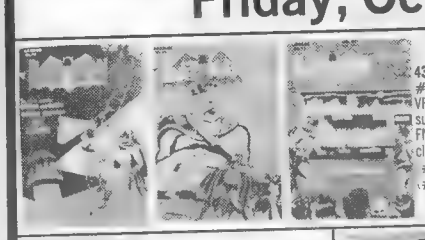
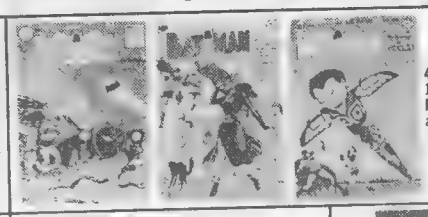
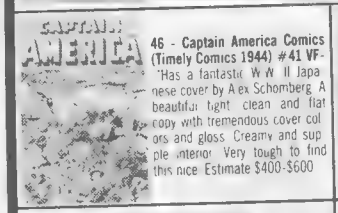


43 - Batman Group (DC Comics 1948) #'s 46, 48, 49. Issue #46 is apparent VF. Moderate restoration including spine support, color touch and clean/press; #48 FN with spine roll; #49 VG. Group includes "1000 secrets of the Batcave" (#48) and first appearance of Mad Hatter (#49). Estimate $500-$700



44 - Batman Group (DC Comics 1951, 1954, 1955) #'s 66 VG, 84 VG+, 92 FN. Issue #92 contains the 1st appearance of Bat-Hound. Estimate $300-$400

45 - Batman Group (DC Comics 1955, 1961, 1968) #'s 155 VF-, 171 VG-, 200 VG and Giant Size Annual #1 FN. Issue #155 contains 1st Sliver - Age appearance of Penguin Estimate $400-$600



46 - Captain America Comics (Timely Comics 1944) #41 VF-. "Has a fantastic WW II Japanese cover by Alex Schomberg. A beautiful tight clean and flat copy with tremendous cover colors and gloss. Creamy and supple interior. Very tough to find this nice. Estimate $400-$600

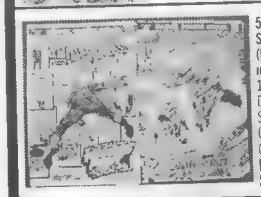
47 - Brave and Bold (DC Comics 1960) #28 GD. Origin and 1st appearance of Justice League of America. Low grade but complete copy. Estimate $200-$300

48 - Marvel Team-Up (Marvel Comics 1972) #1 (4 copies). Two copies are VF and the other two are FN. Estimate $100-$200

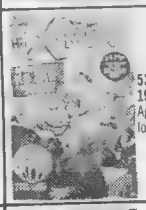
49 - Avengers Group (Marvel Comics 1963 - 1965) #'s 1, 2, 4, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14. Some classic issues including the 1st appearance of S.A. Captain America (#4) VG overall except that #4 has a couple of panels cut out. Estimate $500-$700

50 - Aquaman (DC Comics 1962) #1 GD+. Large tear on back cover-sealed. Estimate $75 - $100

51 - Amazing Spider-Man (Marvel Comics 1967) #50 FN. 1st appearance of Kingpin and a classic cover by John Romita Sr Estimate $75-$100



52 - Amazing Spider-Man (Marvel Comics 1973) #'s 121, 122. Death of Gwen Stacy and Green Goblin Condition FN Estimate $50-$75.

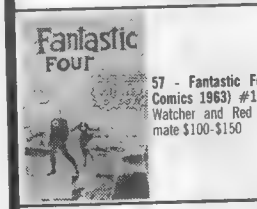


53 - X-Men (Marvel Comics 1965) #10 FN/VF. 1st Silver - Age appearance Kazar. A fresh looking copy Estimate $100-$150

54 - Avengers (Marvel Comics 1964 - 1965) #'s 8 FN, 10 FN/VF, 13 FN/VF. Estimate $150-$250

55 - Green Lantern (DC Comics 1970 - 1971) #'s 76 FN, 85 VF, 86 FN-. Classic stories and artwork by Neal Adams Estimate $75-$100

56 - Fantastic Four (Marvel Comics 1970) #100 VF/NM. Estimate $60-$80



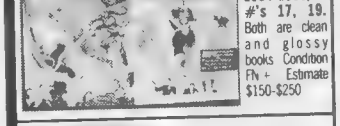
57 - Fantastic Four (Marvel Comics 1963) #13 FN+. 1st Watcher and Red Ghost. Estimate $100-$150

58 - X-Men Giant Size (Marvel Comics 1975) #1 FN+. 1st appearance of the new X-Men Looks NM, but has minor paper loss at top of cover. Estimate $75-$125.

59 - Strange Tales Annual (Marvel Comics 1963) #2 strict FN. Looks better. Spidey and Torch battle. Estimate $100-$150

60 - Silver Surfer (Marvel Comics 1968) #'s 1, 2. Skyrider of the spaceway takes off in his own title Condition VG/FN. Estimate $100-$150

61 - Amazing Spider-Man (Marvel Comics 1964) #'s 11-18, 20. Group contains such classic issues as 1st Mysterio (#13), 1st Green Goblin (#14), 1st Kraven (#15) and 1st Scorpion (#20) Very solid copies with good eye appeal Most issues do not have Marvel chipping Condition VG+ to FN overall Estimate $500-$700



62 - Amazing Spider-Man (Marvel Comics 1964-1966) #'s 17, 19. Both are clean and glossy books Condition FN+ Estimate $150-$250

63 - Adventure Comics (DC Comics 1942) #72 VG. 1st Simon & Kirby Sandman Solid copy with top staple pull and 2 spine split glued Great Starman cover by Burnley Estimate $1,000-$1,500

64 - Star Wars (Marvel Comics 1977-1978) #'s 1-17. Comics depicting the greatest space fantasy of all time. NM to Mint A hand - picked early set Estimate $250-$350

65 - Amazing Spider-Man (Marvel Comics 1966) #40 VF/NM. Beautiful copy with great cover. Seldom seen this nice. Estimate $200-$300

66 - Amazing Spider Man (Marvel Comics 1964-1966) #'s 26, 33, 35, 39. Some great covers and stones Flat, clean and glossy copies Condition VF Estimate $250-$350

67 - Amazing Spider-Man (Marvel Comics 1971) #100 VF+. Estimate $100-$150

68 - Amazing Spider-Man (Marvel Comics 1967-1971) #'s 44-47, 53, 56, 57, 65, 69, 71, 76, 77, 79, 80, 86-88, 90-92, 95, 99. Beautiful copies of this classic run of books by Lee & Romita Condition VF/NM overall Estimate $700-$900

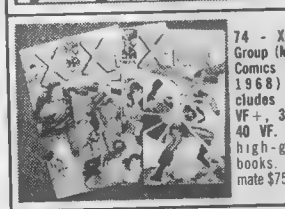
69 - Fantastic Four (Marvel Comics 1966-1967) #46 FN/VF and #60 VF/NM. Estimate $75-$100

70 - Fantastic Four (Marvel Comics 1970) #100 VF. Estimate $50-$75

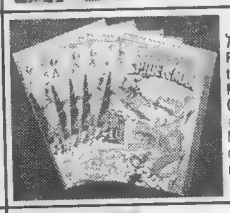
71 - X-Men Group (Marvel Comics 1975-1981) Includes #'s 95-101, 108, 110, 112, 116-120, 124-129, 132-140, 144, 150. Action filled group of comics starring one of Marvel's most successful superhero teams Condition is VF+ overall Estimate $600 $800

72 - Silver Surfer Group (Marvel Comics 1968-1970) #'s 3 VG, 4 FN, 5 FN, 6 FN+, 7 VG, 8 VF, 9 FN+, 10 FN, 11 FN+, 12 VF+, 13 FN, 14 FN+, 15-17 FN, 18 VG Estimate $600 $800

73 - X-Men (Marvel Comics 1967) #28 VF/NM. 1st appearance of the Banshee. A killer book with tremendous color, cover gloss and off-white paper. Estimate $100-$150



74 - X-Men Group (Marvel Comics 1967-1968) Includes #29 VF+, 36 VF, 40 VF. Fresh, high-grade books. Estimate $75-$125



75 - Peter Parker, Spectacular Spider-Man (Marvel Comics 1976) #1. 5 copies in NM and better condition Estimate $75-$125

76 - Peter Parker Spectacular Spider-Man (Marvel Comics 1976-1978) #'s 1-24. NM to Mint condition A hand-picked high grade set of early issues. Estimate $100-$200

77 - Amazing Spider-Man vs. The Prodigy (Marvel Comics 1976) No number. 16 page giveaway on sex eduction. 10 copies in NM and better condition Estimate $100-$150

78 - Amazing Spider-Man (Marvel Comics 1963) #1 VG/FN. Clean, solid copy with no Marvel chipping and cream color interior pages. Estimate $1,500-$2,000

79 - Amazing Spider-Man (Marvel Comics 1963) #1 GD+. Famous debut issue with Fantastic Four crossover Solid copy with very minute Marvel chipping Estimate $800-$1,200

80 - Incredible Hulk (Marvel Comics 1962) #1 VG-. Origin and 1st appearance of the Hulk. Good colors and no Marvel chipping. Estimate $800-$1,200

81 - Amazing Spider-Man (Marvel Comics 1963) #3 VG+. 1st Doc Ock No Marvel chipping. Estimate $300-$400

83 - Fantastic Four (Marvel Comics 1961) #1 FR. Origin and 1st appearance of Fantastic Four by Stan Lee & Jack Kirby. Complete copy with no Marvel chipping. Estimate $300-$500

84 - Amazing Spider-Man (Marvel Comics 1963) #7 VG+. 2nd Vulture. Estimate $100-$150

85 - Amazing Spider-Man (Marvel Comics 1964) #10 FN/VF. 1st appearance of the Enforcers. Estimate $300-$400

86 - Amazing Fantasy (Atlas Magazine 1962) #15 FR/GD. Origin and 1st appearance of Spider-Man by Stan Lee and Steve Ditko. Solid and complete copy with Marvel chipping to right edge and amatuer color touch to front cover in brown logo area Low grade, but very respectable looking copy. Estimate $500-$750

87 - Tales of Suspense (Marvel Comics 1963) #'s 39-41. Origin and 1st appearance of Ironman and his first three adventures to boot. Very solid and flat copies with good colors and no Marvel chipping. Books are glossy and have great eye appeal. #39 VG/FN (looks better than FN from front, but has wrinkling on back cover, at edge, about 2½". #41 is solid FN, save for ¾" edge tear at right of front cover. Estimate $600-$800.

82 - Amazing Spider-Man Group (Marvel Comics 1963-1964) #'s 2 VG+, 4 VG+, 5 VG (water stain), 6 VG/FN, 7 VG, 8 FN, 10 GD+. Respectable, early issues with good eye appeal and no Marvel chipping. Includes 1st **Vulture** (#2), 1st Sandman (#4) 1st Lizard (#6) All but #10 are very glossy and have great color and eye appeal Estimate $750-$1000

88 - Fatastic Four (Marvel Comics 1962) #'s 2-5. Very solid copies with great stones including 1st S.A. Sub-Mariner appearance (#4) and 1st Dr Doom appearance (#5) No Marvel chipping on #'s 2, 3, 5. (#4 has a little at right edge on front cover) Books are glossy Condition nice VG overall Estimate $1,200-$1,500

89 - Fantastic Four (Marvel Comics 1962) #6 FN. Dr Doom and Sub-Mariner team-up Estimate $250-$350

90 - Fantastic Four (Marvel Comics 1966) #48 FN. 1st Silver Surfer and Galactus Estimate $150-$250

91 - Incredible Hulk (Marvel Comics 1963) #6 strict FN+. All Steve Ditko artwork Very rich colors and gloss on cover Excellent eye appeal Estimate $500-$600

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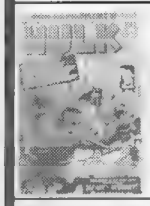


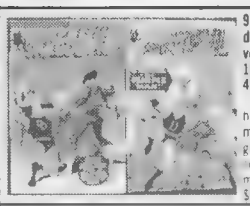
92 - Incredible Hulk (Marvel Comics 1963) #5 FN/FN+. Flat, clean and tight book with excellent color and cover gloss. No Marvel chipping. Estimate $300-$500

93 - Incredible Hulk (Marvel Comics 1962) #'s 2 VG, 3 GD, 4 VG. Solid and complete copies with no Marvel chipping. All three have glossy covers with strong colors. Estimate $400-$500

94 - Daredevil (Marvel Comics 1964) #1 FN/VF. Origin and 1st appearance of Daredevil by Stan Lee and Bill Everett. Very tight, clean and flat copy with good colors and cover gloss. Cream interior paper. Slight yellowing to cover. Estimate $400-$600

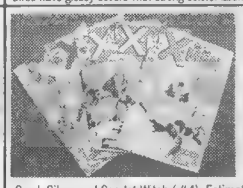
95 - Daredevil (Marvel Comics 1964) #1 FN+. Origin and 1st appearance of Daredevil. Super glossy cover with good color and tan interior paper. Some yellowing to cover. Estimate $400-$600

96 - Daredevil (Marvel Comics 1964) #'s 1-5. Early adventures of the Man Without Fear. Solid copies with good color and cover gloss. No Marvel chipping to books. Condition is VG/VG+ overall. Estimate $400-$600



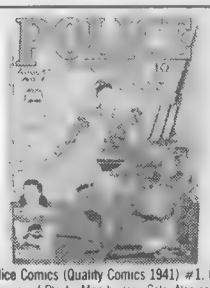
97 - Daredevil (Marvel Comics 1964) #'s 4 FN, 5 VF-. Issue #5 has tremendous gloss and color. Estimate $100-$150

98 - X-Men (Marvel Comics 1963) #1 GD-. Origin and 1st appearance of X-Men. Solid and complete copy with a few pieces of tape on inside cover and Marvel chipping. Estimate $400-$500



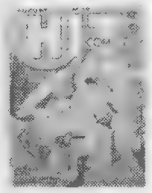
99 - X-Men Group (Marvel Comics 1964) #'s 3 VG/FN, 4, 7, 8, 9 all FN. Nice looking group of books featuring 1st appearance of Quick Silver and Scarlet Witch (#4). Estimate $250-$350

100 - X-Men Group (Marvel Comics 1963-1964) #'s 1-3, 5, 7. Condition is overall VG. Estimate $700-$900



101 - Police Comics (Quality Comics 1941) #1. Origin and 1st appearance of Plastic Man by Jack Cole. Also contains 1st appearance of the Phantom Lady. Very attractive comic that is tight, clean and flat with excellent cover colors and gloss. Overall appearance is FN+ but there are two insect chews at top edge of front cover. Cream interior paper. Quite scarce book in any grade, especially un-restored. Estimate $1,500-$2,000

102 - Hit Comics (Comics Magazine 1941) #13 VG. Action filled Lou Fine cover. Solid copy with light cream pages. Estimate $150-$200



103 - Hit Comics (Comics Magazine 1941) #14 VG/FN. Hercules cover by Lou Fine. Part of sticker at top left corner of front cover. Cream color pages. Estimate $200-$250

104 - Police Comics (Quality Comics) #3 FN/FN+. Tight and flat copy with good cover colors and tan but supple pages. Light amount of soiling at left edge of book. Estimate $400-$600

105 - Robotmen of the Lost Planet (Avon 1952) #1 VG/FN. Solid copy with cream pages. Estimate $150-$200

106 - Jo Jo (Fox 1948) #16 VG/FN. Kamen bondage cover. Estimate $100-$150

107 - Rulah (Fox 1948) #18 FN. Good looking white cover. Minor pen color touch at top of spine. Cream pages. Kamen cover. Estimate $100-$150

108 - Rulah (Fox 1949) #24 VG/FN. Clean and flat with off-white pages. Stain on edge of back cover. Estimate $75-$100

109 - Rulah (Fox 1949) #25 strict FN. Deep, rich cover colors. White interior pages. Estimate $100-$150

110 - Meet Corliss Archer (Fox 1948) #1 FN/VF. Head light cover and interior art by Al Feldstein. Estimate $200-$300

111 - Meet Corliss Archer (Fox 1948) #2 VF. Cover by Feldstein. Pink interior pages. Estimate $200-$250

112 - Meet Corliss Archer (Fox 1948) #3 FN. Pink pages. Estimate $100-$150

113 - The Saint (Avon 1948) #3 FN+. Great action cover. Neat pencil arrival date on cover. Cream color pages. Estimate $75-$125

114 - The Saint (Avon 1948) #4 FN/VF. Superb black cover. Interior text has lingerie panels. Tight, clean and flat with off-white pages. Estimate $75-$125

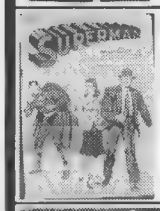
115 - The Saint (Avon 1949) #6 VG/FN. Miss Fury story in book. Solid copy. Estimate $100-$150

116 - Sunny (Fox 1948) #14 VG+. Solid copy with cream interior pages. Estimate $75-$125

117 - Thrilling Comics (Standard Magazine 1944) #42 VF. WWII Japanese Propaganda cover. Tight, flat and glossy with cream color pages. Estimate $100-$150

118 - Tim Holt (Mag. Ent. 1950) #17 VF. A wonderful black Ghost Rider cover by Frank Frazetta. Tight clean and flat with good color. Cream color interior paper. Estimate $150-$200

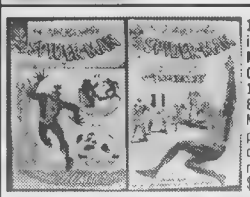
119 - Women in Love (Fox 1949) #2 FN. Attractive copy with bright cover colors. Great cover by Kamen and Feldstein. Estimate $50-$70



120 - Superman (DC Comics 1944) #30 VG. Origin and 1st appearance of Mr. Mxyztplk. A solid looking copy with decent cover colors and cream pages. Back cover has a coffee stain at top left edge that effects all pages but not story panels. Good eye appeal. Estimate $200-$300

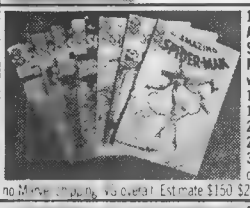
121 - Amazing Spider-Man (Marvel Comics 1963) #2 GD/VG. 1st Vulture appearance. Solid and complete copy with no Marvel chipping. Estimate $200-$300

122 - Amazing Spider-Man (Marvel Comics 1963-1964) #'s 3, 9. Features 1st Doc Ock (#3) and Electro (#9). Solid copies with no Marvel chipping. GD overall. Estimate $150-$250

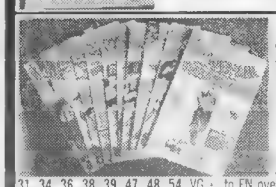


123 - Amazing Spider-Man (Marvel Comics 1964) #'s 8, 10. No Marvel chipping. VG overall. Estimate $150-$250

124 - Amazing Spider-Man (Marvel Comics 1964) #'s 16-18. Solid issues and no Marvel chipping. VG overall. Estimate $150-$225



125 - Amazing Spider-Man (Marvel Comics 1965-1966) #'s 20, 23, 25, 27, 28, 33, 35. Decent copies with no Marvel chipping. VG overall. Estimate $150-$225



126 - Amazing Spider-Man (Marvel Comics 1964-1967) #'s 19, 22, 29, 31, 34, 36, 38, 39, 47, 48, 54 VG+ to FN overall. Estimate $300-$400

127 - Daredevil (Marvel Comics 1964) #1 VG. Origin and 1st appearance of Daredevil. Estimate $200-$300

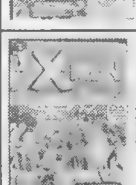
128 - Daredevil (Marvel Comics 1964, 1965, 1968) #'s 3, 12, 39, 44. Overall VG. Estimate $60-$75

129 - Daredevil (Marvel Comics 1964-1966) #'s 5, 18, 18. VG/FN overall. Estimate $50-$75

130 - Daredevil (Marvel Comics 1965) #'s 6, 9, 10. Issue #6 drawn by Wally Wood. FN+ overall. Estimate $100-$150

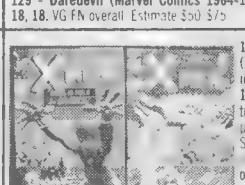
131 - Daredevil (Marvel Comics 1965-1967) #'s 13-16, 27, 42 all FN and 32 VF. Estimate $100-$150

132 - X-Men (Marvel Comics 1963) #1 GD/VG. Origin and 1st appearance of original X-Men and Pro X. A very solid copy with good colors. Estimate $400-$500



133 - X-Men (Marvel Comics 1963) #2 VG. Estimate $200-$250

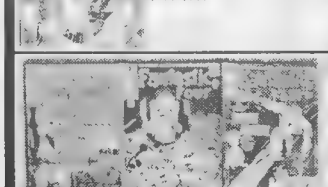
134 - X-Men Group (Marvel Comics 1964-1966) #'s 4, 9-13, 17, 22. VG overall. Estimate $200-$300



135 - X-Men (Marvel Comics 1965) #'s 14, 15. Featuring 1st appearance of Sentinels. #14 FN overall. Estimate $75-$100

136 - Tales To Astonish Group (Marvel Comics 1965-1967) Includes #'s 74, 75, 80-83, 89, 91. Attractive copies. Most FN over all. Estimate $75-$100

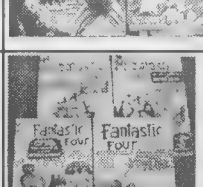
137 - Incredible Hulk (Marvel Comics 1963) #6 FR. Low grade but complete. Has glue repair. Estimate $75-$125



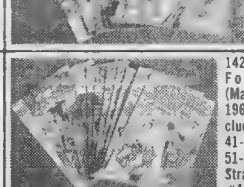
138 - Fantastic Four (Marvel Comics 1966) #'s 48-50 nice FN. Featuring the classic Galactus trilogy. Estimate $300-$400

139 - Fantastic Four Group (Marvel Comics 1962) #'s 3, 4, 5, 8. Complete reading copies with some repair on spines with glue. Grade FR. Estimate $250-$350

140 - Fantastic Four (Marvel Comics 1962) #'s 7, 9. GD/VG overall. Estimate $200-$300



141 - Fantastic Four (Marvel Comics 1963-1964) #'s 13, 15, 17 & 26. GD/VG overall. Estimate $200-$300



142 - Fantastic Four Group (Marvel Comics 1963-1967) Includes 16, 39, 41-43, 45, 47, 51-54 & 62 with Strange Tales #108 (FF APP) and Marvel Collector's Items Classics #2 (FF APP). VG+ to FN overall. Estimate $200-$300

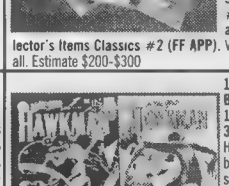
143 - Tales to Astonish (Marvel Comics 1962) #27 FN. 1st appearance of Ant Man. Attractive copy of a very difficult issue to find in nice condition. Clean and flat with tight spine and staples and deep color strike. Inks are clear & sharp with no smudging which is common for this book. Cover has good cover gloss and light tan interior paper. Book has ¼" chip at top edge. Estimate $500-$700

144 - Tales of Suspense (Marvel Comics 1963) #39 strict FN+. Origin and 1st appearance Ironman. Very attractive copy with rich colors that are clean and sharp with no smudging. Book is tight and flat with excellent cover gloss and light tan interior paper. Some minor wear at spine. Superb eye appeal. Estimate $600-$900

145 - Fantastic Four (Marvel Comics 1961) #1 GD/VG. Origin and 1st appearance of Fantastic Four by Stan Lee & Jack Kirby. This issue began the Marvel - Age of comics. Low grade, but solid copy with good cover colors and no Marvel chipping. Estimate $600-$900

146 - Space Adventures (Charlton 1960) #33 FN. Origin & 1st appearance of Captain Atom by Ditko. Estimate $75-$125

147 - Green Lantern (DC Comics 1960-1961) #'s 2-3 FN, 7 FN+, 9 VF-. Good looking group with deep colors. Estimate $300-$400



148 - Brave & Bold (DC Comics 1961-1962) #'s 36, 44. Early Hawkman tryouts by Joe Kubert. Issue #44 has a wonderful gray tone cover by Kubert. FN overall. Estimate $125-$175

149 - Tales of Suspense (Marvel Comics 1961) #13 VF. Beautiful copy with rich colors and tremendous cover gloss. Book is flat and clean with tight spine and staples. Cream interior pages. Scarce in this grade. Estimate $75-$100

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150 - Tales of Suspense (Atlas Comics 1960) #8 strict FN. Good looking, clean & flat book with deep, rich cover colors and no Marvel chipping which is quite rare for. Marvel comics from this era. Interior paper is cream. Great "Monstro" Kirby cover Estimate $70-$120

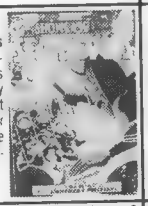
151 - Mystery in Space (DC Comics 1960) #'s 59 VG+ (staple pull), 62 FN+. Estimate $75-$100

152 - Batman #'s 130 VG+, 134 FN; World's Finest #'s 108 FN, 112 VG/FN (DC Comics 1960). Estimate $100-$150

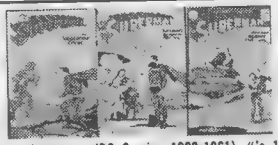
153 - Showcase (DC Comics 1962-1963) #'s 37, 40 & Metal Men #3. Featuring the 1st appearance of the Metal Men (#37). FN overall. Estimate $150-$200

154 - Showcase (DC Comics 1961) #35 strict VF. 2nd Silver-Age appearance of Atom by Gil Kane A beautiful high grade copy that is very flat and clean with tight spine and rich colors. Good cover gloss and light tan pages. Very tough to find in this nice of a grade. Estimate $300-$400

155 - Showcase (DC Comics 1961) #32 VF. 3rd Silver-Age appearance of Aquaman Sharp, flat copy with tight spine and good cover gloss. Deep colors with light tan pages and some edge tanning on inside cover. Excellent overall eye appeal. Estimate $200-$250



156 - Showcase (DC Comics 1960) #28 FN/VF. 2nd appearance of Sea Devils by Russ Heath Great underwater gray tone cover Flat, clean & tight with deep colors and good cover gloss Light wear at bottom edge of front cover Estimate $125-$175



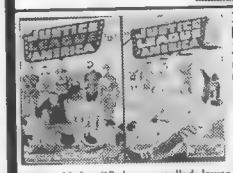
157 - Superman (DC Comics 1960-1961) #'s 136 FN+, 141 FN+, 145 FN/VF. Attractive copies with good color and eye appeal. Estimate $100-$150

158 - Konga (Charlton Comics 1961) #2 VF-. Flat, sharp looking book Estimate $60-$80

159 - Brave & Bold (DC Comics 1961) #'s 37 FN/FN+, 38-39 FN/VF. Featuring the second tryout series of the Suicide Squad Very attractive copies that are very flat, tight with good colors Estimate $200-$250

160 - The Flash (DC Comics 1959-1961) #'s 107 VG+, 11 5 FN/VF, " 116, 118, 121, 122, 124. Overall FN Some great early issues Estimate $300-$500

161 - Justice League of America (DC Comics 1961-1964) #'s 5, 12, 14, 17, 18, 29. All issues are sharp, clean and flat with nice cover gloss Strict FN over all Estimate $200-$300



162 - Brave & Bold #30 FN & Justice League of America #8 FN (DC Comics 1960-1961) Brave & Bold has good colors with some wear at bottom of front cover. J.L.A. #8 has a pulled lower staple. Estimate $300-$400

163 - Justice League of America (DC Comics 1961) #'s 4, 6, 7. Green Arrow joins J.L.A. in issue #4. All very nice copies that are clean, tight and flat with good colors. Excellent eye appeal on all issues. Issue #4 is rather difficult to find this nice. FN+ overall. Estimate $300-$400

164 - Strange Adventures (DC Comics 1960) #117 FN. Featuring the origin and 1st appearance of Atomic Knights by Wally Wood Tight & clean with deep colors and off-white pages Some wear at spine. Good cover gloss. Difficult to find in any condition Estimate $100-$150

165 - Fantastic Four Annuals (Marvel Comics 1963-1965) #'s 1-3. Condition: FN+, FN, FN-. Estimate $150-$200

166 - Marvel Silver-Age Group (Marvel Comics 1963) Fantastic Four #19 FN- (light Marvel chipping, #38 FN, #43 VG/FN (soft crease down front cover; Strange Tales #106 VG+ (tear at right edge of front cover & 1st 6 pages) Estimate $100-$150

167 - Silver-Age Group (DC Comics, Marvel Comics, Archie 1960-1964) Brave & Bold #32 FN; Adventures of the Fly #5; Tales of Suspense #57 VG/FN. Estimate $75-$125

168 - Suspense Comics (Continental Mag. 1944) #5 FR/GD. L.B Cole cover. Overall appearance of book is about VG, but cover is detached from pages. Book is complete with cream color pages. Good restoration potential. Estimate $150-$250

169 - Mickey Mouse Story Book Hardcover (Disney 1931) Very scarce hardcover book with fresh interior and cover. If not for a loose and damaged spine, this book would bring many times the estimate. VG. Estimate $150-$250

170 - Amazing Adult Fantasy (Atlas Comics 1962) #9 VG (cover crease, book length). Estimate $60-$80

171 - Human Torch (Atlas Comics 1954) #38 Gd: Has some chipping to cover. Estimate $75-$125

172 - Showcase (DC Comics 1956) #4 VG+. Origin and 1st appearance Silver-Age Flash. This book marks the beginning of the Silver-Age of comics. An attractive copy that is tight and clean with good cover colors. Interior paper is tan and back cover has a 1 inch tear at edge. Excellent overall eye appeal Estimate $1,800-$2,200

173 - Showcase (DC Comics 1958) #13 VG. 3rd appearance Silver - Age Flash Great Flash cover by Infantino. Tight and clean with excellent colors ½ inch spine split at top keeps it from being a nice FN Estimate $250-$350

174 - Showcase (DC Comics 1959) #22 GD+. Origin and 1st appearance of Silver - Age Green Lantern by Gil Kane Solid low grade copy with very deep cover color Spine has some chipping. Estimate $300-$400

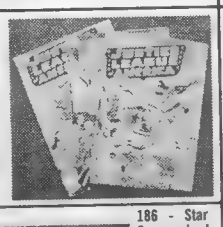
175 - Action Comics (DC Comics 1939) #15 GD. Superman cover by Fred Guardineer. Large piece out of lower right corner of cover. Light tan interior pages Estimate $300-$500

176 - Action Comics (DC Comics 1939) #17 FR/GD. Book has solid good appearance. Cover is a little loose and has small tears and chipping along spine with a 1" chip at bottom. Book is complete and has yellowed pages There is, what appears to be a small circular worm hole that goes through most of the pages. This flaw does not effect either cover.. Estimate $200-$300

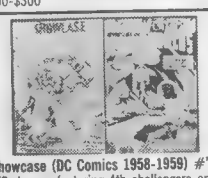
177 - Silver Streak Comics (Lev Gleason 1942) #17 FR/GD. Some chipping to cover with weak paper. Estimate $60-$80

178 - Superman (DC Comics 1944) #30 GD/VG. Origin and 1st appearance of Mr Mxyztplk Chip at right edge of front cover. Nice off-white pages. Estimate $150-$250

179 - Superman (DC Comics 1946) #43 GD. Overall appearance is that of a VG. Has a chip at top of spine and some tape and color touch. Nice off-white to cream pages. Estimate $30-$50

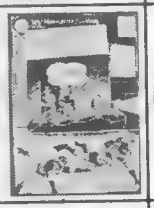


180 - Brave & Bold #29 GD-, Justice League of America #21 GD/VG and 25 GD/VG (DC Comics 1960, 1963, 1964) Estimate $200-$250



181 - Showcase (DC Comics 1958-1959) #'s 12 GD, 18 GD/VG. Issues featuring 4th challengers appearance by Kirby and 2nd Adam Strange Estimate $100-$150

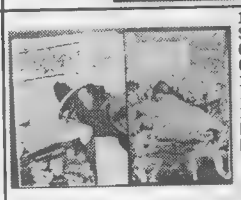
182 - Flash (DC Comics 1959) #106 VG-. Scarce 2nd issue featuring origin of Gorilla Grodd and Pied Piper. Small chip at lower right corner of front cover Estimate $150-$200



183 - Detective Comics (DC Comics 1956) #229 VG+. Water stain at lower corner of cover. Estimate $60-$90

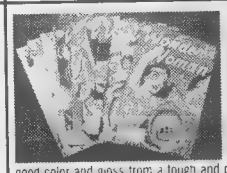
184 - Pat Boone (DC Comics 1959) #1 VG+. Estimate $80-$120

185 - War Group (Various Publishers 1941/1944) Includes Bomber Comics #1 VG. Wings #11 GD/VG & Blue Beetle #35 Gd/VG Estimate $100-$150



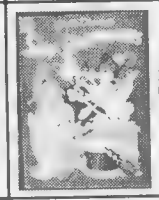
186 - Star Spangled Comics (DC Comics 1943/1950) #'s 26 VG & 111 VG+. Issue #26 has heavy spine roll Estimate $115-$160

187 - Lois Lane Group (DC Comics 1959-1960) Early adventures of Superman's girlfriend. Includes #'s 7, 10, 15 VG #18 VG+ #13, 19 FN #1 6 FN+ Estimate $200 $300



188 - Silver-Age Wonder Woman Group (DC Comics 1956-1959) #'s 83, 101-104, 106-110. Solid copies with good color and gloss from a tough and popular era VG to FN overall Estimate $200-$300

189 - Mystic Comics (Atlas Comics 1944) #1 VG. The Angel, the Destroyer and Human Torch all have features in this debut issue. Great W.W.II propaganda splash as the Destroyer holds Hirohito and Hitler by their necks who both have serpent bodies. Solid copy with light tan pages Estimate $300-$400

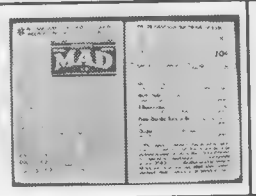


190 - Silly Symphonies Dell Giant (Walt Disney 1954) #4 FN+. Estimate $75-$100

191 - Blaze the Wonder Collie (Marvel Comics 1950) #3 FN. Scarce issue with photo cover. Estimate $50-$75

192 - Mr. District Attorney #3 VG, Gang Busters #17 VG+ (DC Comics 1948/1950) and Wanted #12 VG+ (Toytown Publishers 1948) Estimate $150-$200

193 - Mad (EC Comics 1955) #24 VG-. 1st magazine size issue. Estimate $100-$150



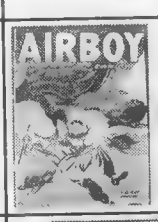
194 - Mad (EC Comics 1954-1955) #'s 12, 19. VG overall Estimate $90-$120

195 - Our Gang (Dell, 1944) #10 VG+. Carl Barks art. Estimate $75-$100

196 - Terrifying Tales (Star Publishers 1953) #12 VG+. Colorful L.B. Cole cover Estimate $50-$75

197 - Western Killers (Fox 1948) #59 (no #) VG+. Front cover looks great. back cover has creases. Estimate $25-$50

198 - Unusual Tales (Charlton 1955) #1 FN. Estimate $60-$80



199 - Airboy Comics (Hillman Pubi. 1945) Vol. 8 #7 FN. Estimate $30-$40

200 - Brave and Bold (DC Comics 1959-1960) #'s 26, 27. 2nd and 3rd appearance of the Suicide Squad. FN overall. Estimate $150-$180

201 - Buster Brown Comics Book (Brown Shoe Co., 1945) #9 FN+. Estimate $30-$40

202 - Movie Comics (Fiction House 1947) #3 FN. Mickey Rooney cover and story Estimate $100-$150

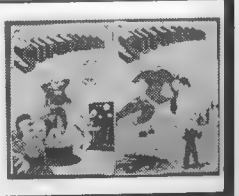
203 - 4 Favorites (Ace 1945) #18 VG+. Estimate $40-$50

204 - The Thing (Charlton 1954) #16 VF/NM. A "killer" copy. Fresh and glossy. Extreme violence issue. Estimate $250-$350

205 - Jumbo Comics (Fiction House 1944) #'s 62, 64, 67. All copies are tight, clean and flat with excellent eye appeal Light name and arrival date written in pen on front covers FN-FN+ overall. Estimate $200-$250

206 - Jumbo Comics #65 VF- and Jungle #86 FN+ (Fiction House 1944/1947) Two very attractive books with rich colors and nice interior paper. Issue #65 has light name and arrival date in pen. #86 has small staple tears. Both appear VF at glance. Estimate $125-$175

207 - Superman (DC Comics 1949) #59 VG+. Excellent colors and overall eye appeal Some minor chips at bottom right edge of front cover keep it from FN+ Estimate $100-$150



208 - Superman (DC Comics 1948/1951) #'s 52 VG 68 VG+: #52 has name on front cover. Estimate $200-$250

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209 - Sensation Comics (DC Comics 1945/1949) #'s 44, 90. Solid copies with good colors. VG overall Estimate $100-$150

210 - Sensation Comics (DC Comics 1945) #41 FN. Beautiful, rich red cover with fresh white interior paper Small color flake at top of spine keeps from VF. Estimate $75-$125

211 - Wonder Woman (DC Comics 1949) #35 VG+. Estimate $100-$150

212 - Adventure Comics (DC Comics 1949) #141 FN/VF. Estimate $200-$250

213 - Prize Comics (Prize Pub. 1944) #'s 41, 46. VG+ to FN overall. #46 has neat horror cover. Estimate $60-$80

214 - Dollman #23 FN - and Police Comics #34 FN+. (Quality Comics 1944, 1949) Police #34 is very fresh and attractive Estimate $200-$250

215 - Zago (Fox 1949) #3 FN+. Vibrant cover colors. Book is tight and clean with two neat arrival date stamps on back cover. Looks great! Estimate $125-$200

216 - Superboy (DC Comics 1949) #2 FN. Tight and clean with cream pages Small sliver off top right corner of front cover keep this beauty from VF. Fresh! Estimate $500-$600

217 - Action Comics (DC Comics 1950) #148 strict VG+. Has nice appearance. Estimate $75-$100

218 - More Fun Comics (DC Comics 1944) #98 strict FN. Deep blue Green Arrow & Speedy Cover Tight and clean with good colors Name and arrival date neatly in pen on cover Estimate $200-$300

219 - Strange Adventures (DC Comics 1950) #2 GD/VG. Estimate $125-$175

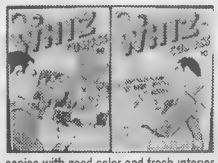
220 - Strange Adventures (DC Comics 1951) #4 VG+. Rich colors and nice interior paper Some chipping at bottom edge of back cover Estimate $150-$200

221 - Human Torch (Timely Comics 1944) #15 VF-. Great action packed bondage cover by Alex Schomberg. Bright, tight and clean book with very fresh white interior paper Slight cupped spine Name and arrival date on cover are both very neat. Estimate $800-$1000. This book is a real beauty and should see spirited bidding.

222 - Feature Films (DC Comics 1950) #4 GD/VG. Bob Hope and Lucille Ball photo cover Estimate $75-$100

223 - Blazing Comics (Enwil Assoc. 1944) #4 FN. Starring the Green Turtle. Estimate $70-$90

224 - Tales of the Unexpected (DC Comics 1956) #2 FN. Estimate $100-$150

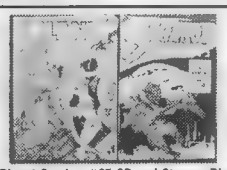


225 - Whiz Comics (Fawcett 1944-1945) #'s 59 VG, 64 FN/VF. Two very attractive copies with good color and fresh interior paper. Estimate $200-$300

226 - Detective Comics (DC Comics 1950) #165 GD/VG. Estimate $50-$75

227 - Detective Comics (DC Comics 1947) #117 VG+. Estimate $190-$150

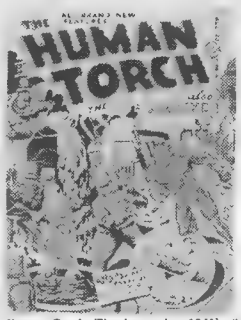
228 - Master Comics (Fawcett 1944-1945) #'s 51, 58. Captain Marvel, Jr covers by Mac Raboy Attractive, clean and flat copies with fresh interior paper Name and arrival date in pen on #51. Stamp arrival date on #58 FN. Estimate $100-$150



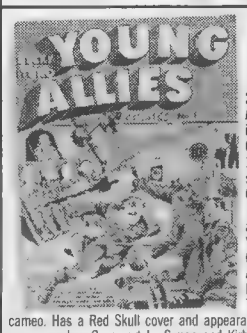
229 - Planet Comics #67 GD and Strange Planet #9 (Fiction House 1952/L.W. Ent. 1958) Estimate $40-$50

230 - Haunt of Fear #17 FR and Web of Mystery #17 VG (EC Comics/Ace Mag. 1953) Estimate $30-$45

231 - The Funnies (Dell Pub. 1936-1937) #3 GD/VG and #6 VG-. Estimate $150-$250



232 - Human Torch (Timely comics 1941) #4 VG. Book has a Sub-Mariner story by Bill Everett Classic Torch splash page by Carl Burgos Solid copy with decent page quality Estimate $500-$700



233 - Young Allies Comics (Timely Comics 1941) #1 strict VG+. Origin and 1st appearance of Young Allies Captain America and Human Torch cameo. Has a Red Skull cover and appearance of Hitler on cover also. Cover art by Simon and Kirby Attractive copy with good cover colors Book is tight, clean and flat with cream interior paper Very solid copy with excellent eye appeal Estimate $1,400-$1,800

234 - Hawkman (DC Comics 1964) #1 strict FN. Estimate $125-$175

235 - Fantastic Four Annual (Marvel Comics 1963) #1 GD/VG. Good eye appeal with some insect damage to top of spine. Estimate $25-$45

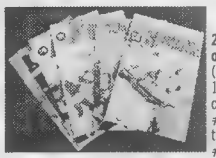
236 - Silver-Age DC Group (DC Comics 1962-1963) Includes Aquaman #3, Green Lantern #23, and Justice League of America #22. Each FN overall Estimate $150-$200

237 - Amazing Spider-Man (Marvel Comics 1963) #5 strict VF. Glossy cover with fresh color Nice pages too! Only a few "stress" creases at spine keep this "toughie" from VF+ or better Absolutely no Marvel chipping! Estimate $700-$900

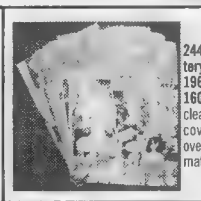
240 - Our Army at War (DC Comics 1959) #82. Scarce issue contains 2nd Sgt. Rock appearance. VG+. Estimate $75-$125

241 - Miscellaneous DC Collection (DC 1959) Includes Aquaman #'s 28 VG+, 31 VG (white - out on back cover, 52 FN; the Atom #'s 6 GD+, 7 GD, 10 GD, 11 GD/VG, 20 VG. Brave & Bold #54 VG+, Forever People #1 VG+, Hawkman #'s 6 FN, 20 FN-, 25-27 FN; Metal Men #1 VG+; Sea Devils #3 VG, Strange Adventures #212 FN, World's Finest #198 VG. Estimate $150-$200

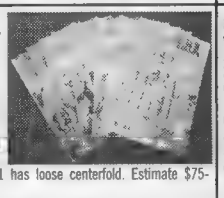
242 - Silver Surfer (Marvel Comics 1968) #3. 1st appearance of Mephisto Faded cover colors. VG. Estimate $20-$30



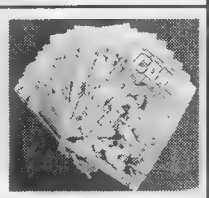
243 - Miscellaneous Collection (Harvey Comics 1960-1966) Includes Human Fly #1 VG+; Adventures of the Fly #8 GD+, #116 FN; The Shadow #1 FN, 6 FN-; Spyman #1 VG. Estimate $40-$60



244 - House of Mystery (DC Comics 1966-1968) #'s 157, 158, 160, 162-172. Flat & clean books with good cover colors. FN/VF overall, #160 FN. Estimate $200-$300

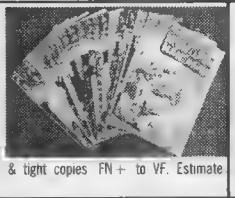


245 - Tales to Astonish (Marvel Comics 1965-1968) #'s 70, 74, 75, 78, 92, 94, 97-99, 101. The title which Featured The Hulk & Sub - Mariner FN overall. #101 has loose centerfold. Estimate $75-$125

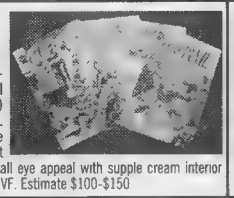


246 - Conan (Marvel Comics 1970-1972) #s 1 VG+, 2(2 copies), 3 FN (2 copies) 4-11, 17, 19, 20. A great run of books with artwork by Barry Smith. FN/FN+ overall Estimate $175-$250

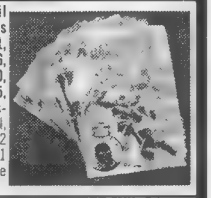
247 - Tales of Suspense (Marvel Comics 1964-1967) #'s 54, 70, 71, 78, 79, 84, 85, 87, 88, 91. Solid group containing the heroic adventures of Ironman & Captain America VG/FN overall. Estimate $50-$75



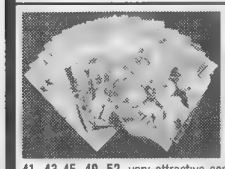
248 - Tales of Suspense (Marvel Comics 1966-1968) #'s 76-99. Flat, clean & tight copies FN+ to VF. Estimate $200-$300



249 - Daredevil (Marvel Comics 1966) #'s 13-15, 18. Very attractive books Excellent colors and overall eye appeal with supple cream interior paper FN+ to VF. Estimate $100-$150

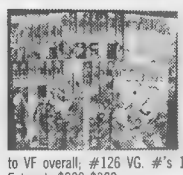


250 - Daredevil (Marvel Comics 1965-1969) #'s 11, 12, 17, 19, 22-26, 30, 33, 36, 38, 40, 42, 46, 50, 52-55, Annual #1. All issues are a solid FN, but for #s 22, 23, 32 & 51 VG. Annual #1 is GD/VG. Estimate $175-$225

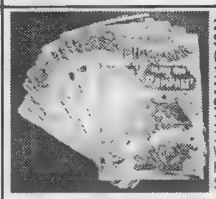


251 - Daredevil (Marvel Comics 1966-1969) #'s 20, 21, 28, 29, 34, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43-45, 49, 52. very attractive copies FN+ overall Estimate $125-$175

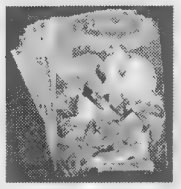
252 - Thor (Marvel Comics 1967-1970) includes #'s 142-143, 146, 148, 158-159, 164, 172, 173. Beautiful group of books that are very flat, clean and tight Interior paper is cream Cover colors are bright and rich. Excellent eye appeal VF+ to VF/NM Estimate $120-$200



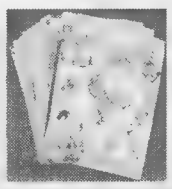
253 - Thor (Marvel Comics 1966) includes #'s 126, 128, 131-133, 135-140, 144, 145, 147, 149, 151-154, 160, 167, 168, 170, 171, 174-177. Issues have classic Kirby artwork. FN+ to VF overall; #126 VG. #'s 152, 154, 174, 176 FN Estimate $200-$300



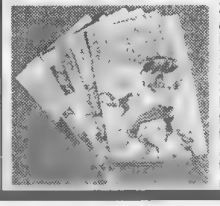
254 - Amazing Spider-Man (Marvel Comics 1966-1979) #'s 32-47, 52-59, 86, 90, 114, 126, 128, 147, 151, 161, 193, 194. VG to VG+ overall. #59 FR/GD Estimate $150 $250



255 - Amazing Spider-Man (Marvel Comics 1967-1980) #'s 51, 78, 89, 93-95, 99, 107, 118, 123, 124, 132, 137-139, 145-147, 152, 155, 162, 186, 189, 192, 198-201. Features the 2nd appearance of Kingpin (#51) and 1st appearance of Prowler (#78). Flat, clean good looking copies FN overall Estimate $100-$200



256 - Amazing Spider-Man (Marvel Comics 1972-1980) #'s 111, 127, 131, 140, 152-154, 156-161, 163-169, 171-176, 178-185, 190, 191, 195, 196, 200. FN+ to VF overall Estimate $75-$125



257 - Silver-Age Captain America Group (Marvel Comics 1968-1970) #'s 105, 107, 108, 111, 113, 116, 122, 123. Some great issues with Kirby & Steranko artwork. Each issue has a neat name stamp on front cover and in margin on title page. All are bright, clean and glossy books with nice interior paper VF overall Estimate $90-$120

258 - Jungle Adventures (Super 1964) #15 VG. Jungle Tales (Atlas 1955) #3 VG. Estimate $40-$60

259 - Noman (Tower Comics 1966) #1 VF. Some interior pages have chips off of top right corner Estimate $30-$40

260 - Fantastic Giants (Charlton 1966) Vol. 2 #24 Cover and artwork by Steve Ditko Estimate $15-$25

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261 - Daredevil (Lev Gleason 1945) #28 FN-. Estimate $80-$100

262 - Strange Tales (Marvel Comics 1961) #89 GD. 1st Fin Fang Fum by Kirby. Estimate $40-$60

263 - Incredible Hulk (Marvel Comics 1968) #102 FN+. Series begins anew. Estimate $30-$50

264 - Nick Fury (Marvel Comics 1968) #1 VF. Estimate $30-$45

265 - Captain Marvel (Marvel Comics 1968) #1 VF. Estimate $25-$40

266 - X-Men (Marvel Comics 1975) #94 VF. New X-Men begin. Estimate $200-$250

267 - X-Men (Marvel Comics 1975) #94 FN. New X-Men begin. Signed by Dave Cockrum in margin of title page Estimate $125-$175

268 - Fantastic Four (Marvel Comics 1966) #48 VF. The classic issue featuring the 1st appearance of the Silver Surfer and Galactus. Tight, clean and glossy book with deep cover colors and fresh white pages. Estimate $400-$500

269 - Fantastic Four (Marvel Comics 1963-1964) #'s 19, 21-24, 28, 33. Attractive, flat and clean books with no Marvel chipping. FN overall. Estimate $300-$450

270 - Fantastic Four (Marvel Comics 1963) #16 VF-. Dr Doom cover and story. Has Antman appearance. Good color with very minor pre-Marvel chipping at right edge. Estimate $150-$250

271 - Fantastic Four (Marvel Comics 1963) #14 VF-. Flat, tight and clean. Estimate $100-$150

272 - Fantastic Four (Marvel Comics 1963) #'s 11, 15, 17. Solid copies with no Marvel chipping. VG+ to FN overall Estimate $200-$300

273 - Fantastic Four (Marvel 1962) #2 FN-. Very solid book with no Marvel chipping Tight and clean with good color. Estimate $500-$750

274 - Fantastic Four (Marvel Comics 1962) #5 sharp FN. Origin and 1st appearance of Dr. Doom. Attractive book with excellent eye appeal Cover colors are deep and sharp with no smudging. Book is tight, clean and flat with no Marvel chipping. Minor spine wear and tanning on edges keep this from being a higher grade Estimate $500-$700

275 - Fantastic Four (Marvel Comics 1962) #'s 7, 8. Attractive copies with very minor Marvel chipping. FN- overall. Estimate $200-$300

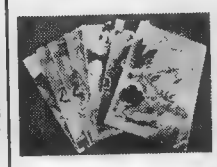
276 - Fantastic Four (Marvel Comics 1963) #10 FN. Flat, clean and glossy Multiple arrival date stamps on front cover. Estimate $100-$150

277 - Fantastic Four (Marvel Comics 1962) #'s 3 VG+, 4 VG. Issue #3 great cover colors and no Marvel chipping. #4 is 1st Silver-Age Sub-Mariner with light Marvel chipping. Estimate $600-$800

278 - Fantastic Four (Marvel Comics 1963-1964) #'s 10, 20, 21, 28. Overall GD/VG. Some Marvel chipping. Estimate $125-$175

279 - Mighty Comics Group (Mighty Comics 1965-1966) Including Mighty Crusaders #'s 1 (2 copies), 2-7. All are VF, and Superheroes vs. Super Villians. FN. Estimate $75-$125

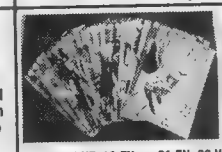
280 - Thunder Agents (Tower Comics 1965-1966) #'s 1 FN, 2 VG/FN, 3 VG, 4 VG, 5 FN, 8 FN, 9 VG. Estimate $75-$100



281 - Tower Comics Group (Tower Comics 1966-1967) Includes Dynamo #1 GD, 2 & 4 VG; Noman #1 (2) FN; Undersea Agent #1 FN; Thunder Agents #8 FN. Estimate $50-$75

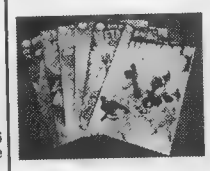
282 - Amazing Spider-Man (Marvel Comics 1967-1974) #'s 49, 51, 54, 57, 58, 60. Overall FN; #50 & 129 VG Estimate $150-$225

283 - Spider-Man (Marvel Comics 1990) #1 Platinum Edition VF. Estimate $50-$75



284 - Hawkman Group (DC Comics 1964-1968) #'s 2 FN, 3 FN+, 4 FN, 6 VF, 7 FN, 8 FN, 9 FN+, 10 FN, 11 FN, 12 VF, 13 FN, 14 VF, 15 FN, 16 FN+, 17 VF, 19 FN+, 21 FN, 22 VF, 23 VF, 24 VF, 25 VF, 26 FN/VF, 27 FN+. Sharp group. Estimate $400-$500

285 - Showcase (DC Comics 1961-1968) #'s 30 FR, 36 FN-, 38 FN, 64 GD/VG, 73 VG+, 74 VG+. Estimate $200-$300

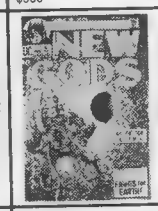


286 - Brave & Bold Group (DC Comics 1959/1964-1968) #'s 25 GD; 54, 58, 62, 71, 80 FN overall. Estimate $100-$125

287 - Ghost Rider (Marvel Comics 1973) #1 FN. Estimate $20-$30

288 - Sgt. Fury (Marvel Comics 1964) #8 FN. Estimate $30-$40

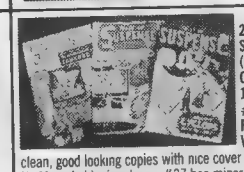
289 - Superman (DC Comics 1967) #199 FN. 1st Superman/Flash race. Estimate $40-$60



290 - New Gods (DC Comics 1971) #1 FN+. Estimate $40-$50

291 - Tales of Suspense (Marvel Comics 1963-1964) #'s 43, 59. FN overall. Estimate $125-$175

292 - Tales of Suspense (Marvel Comics 1964) #57 strict VF. Origin and 1st appearance of Hawkeye High grade flat & tight copy with great cover gloss Interior paper is tan. Estimate $80-$120



293 - Tales of Suspense (Marvel Comics 1960-1963) #'s 10 FN, 35 FN+, 37 VG+. Flat and clean, good looking copies with nice cover color and gloss. No Marvel chipping. Issue #37 has minor color touch on spine. Estimate $175-$250

294 - Tomb of Dracula (Marvel Comics 1972) #1 FN/FN+. Estimate $30-$50

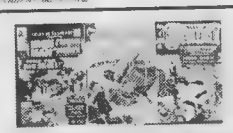
295 - X-Men Giant Size (Marvel Comics 1975) #1 VF. 1st appearance of the New X-Men Estimate $250-$350

296 - House of Secrets (DC Comics 1971) #92 FN+. 1st appearance of Swamp Thing. Classic grey - tone cover by Wrightson. Estimate $150-$200

297 - Journey Into Mystery (Marvel Comics 1963-1964) #'s 89, 102, 108. Solid low grade copies with no Marvel chipping. VG overall. Estimate $60-$80

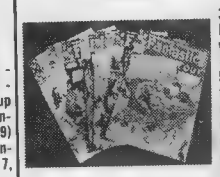
298 - Tales of Suspense (Marvel Comics 1963) #43 VG. Early Ironman appearance. No Marvel chipping. 1 ½" tear on back cover. Estimate $50-$75

299 - Tales of Suspense (Marvel Comics 1964) #'s 49 FN/VF, 52 FN. Featuring the 1st X-Men and Avengers crossover (#49) and 1st appearance of Black Widow (#52). Clean and flat copies with good cover gloss. Estimate $60-$85

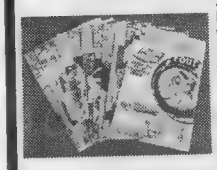


300 - Tales of Suspense (Marvel Comics 1964-1965) #52 FN/VF, #53 FN, 65 FN. Some great stories featuring 1st Black Widow (#52) and origin (#53) and 1st Silver - Age of Red Skull (#65) Estimate $100-$125

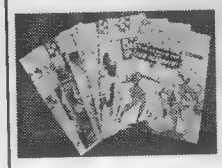
301 - Silver - Age Sub - Mariner Group (Marvel Comics 1968-1969) Includes Ironman & Sub-Mariner #1; Sub-Mariner #'s 1-3, 5, 7, 8, 10. Overall FN. Estimate $100-$150



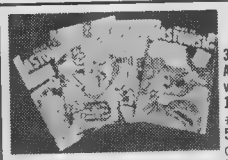
302 - Fantastic Four Group (Marvel 1965-1967) #'s 42, 44, 47, 52, 60, 67. Flat, tight and clean copies with rich colors and great cover gloss FN+ overall. Estimate $150-$200



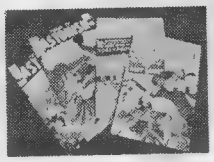
303 - Fantastic Four Group (Marvel Comics 1965-1967) #'s 38-40, 49, 50, 53, 57-59. Good looking books with excellent color, gloss and eye appeal FN overall Estimate $200-$300



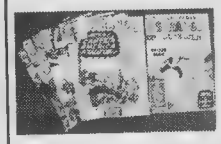
304 - Fantastic Four Group (Marvel Comics 1964-1971) #'s 27, 30, 32, 33, 36, 43, 112 and Annual #5. VG+ overall with no Marvel chipping Estimate $75-$125



305 - Tales to Astonish (Marvel Comics 1963-1964) #'s 44, 45, 53, 56. Issue #44 origin and 1st app of the Wasp FN overall with no Marvel chipping Estimate $150-$200

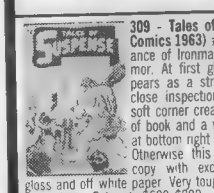


306 - Tales to Astonish Group (Marvel Comics 1962-1964) #'s 35 VG+, 42 VG+, 44 FN, 54 VG/FN. Early Ant - Man adventures Estimate $300-$400

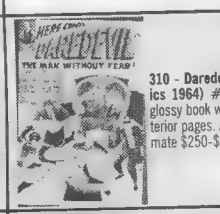


307 - Strange Tales (Marvel Comics 1963-1967) #'s 114, 115, 120, 128, 134, 135, 151 and Annual #2. Featuring Captain America tryout (#114), origin of Dr Strange (#115) and 1st Nick Fury (#135) FN+ overall Estimate $350-$450

308 - Strange Tales (Marvel Comics 1963-1967) #'s 115 GD/VG, 115 VG+, 125 VG+, 148 VG, 154 VG+. Has 2 copies featuring the origin of Dr Strange (#115) Estimate $75-$125



309 - Tales of Suspense (Marvel Comics 1963) #40 VF. 2nd appearance of Ironman in new golden armor. At first glance this book appears as a strict VF/NM but upon close inspection one can notice a soft corner crease at top left corner of book and a very light tiny crease at bottom right corner of front cover. Otherwise this is a very beautiful copy with excellent colors, cover gloss and off white paper Very tough to find in this nice of condition Estimate $600-$800



310 - Daredevil (Marvel Comics 1964) #3 VF+. Flat and glossy book with cream color interior pages. A real beauty! Estimate $250-$350

311 - World's Finest Comics (DC Comics 1945) #17 FN. Great bright banana yellow cover Soft reading creases on front cover Interior pages are white and fresh. Estimate $300-$400

312 - Suspense Comics (Continental Mag. 1945) #9 GD/VG. L B Cole eyeball cover. Solid copy with good colors Some paper loss on front cover in circular shape here a cup may have rested Estimate $200-$300

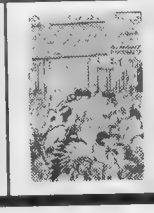
313 - Beware Terror Tales (Fawcett Pub. 1952) #1 FN. Good looking book with some wear at spine. Estimate $100-$200

314 - Classic Comics (1943) #15 strict VF. Uncle Tom's Cabin. A very attractive copy of this classic original. Estimate $300-$500

315 - More Fun Comics (DC Comics 1941) #70 strict FN/VF. Dr Fate cover is bright with strong colors and most of original gloss. Book is flat and has tight, firm spine. Dust shadow at right edge and minor, clean ⅜" tear at lower staple. Supple, creamy interior pages. Estimate $900-$1200

316 - Batman (DC Comics 1944) #22 strong VF- (Spokane Copy). This pedigree book has fresh, offwhite pages and full cover gloss along with incredibly bright colors Save for minor stress wrinkles at spine area, this beauty would command VF+, at least. It also has a small "K" in red grease pencil which is indicative of some of the other books from the aforementioned pedigree collection Estimate $700-$900

317 - X-Men (Marvel Comics 1963) #2 VG+. Believe it or not, this book actually has a "VF" look to it Upon inspection, a bend at the right bottom corner of book is evident, which affects all pages and causes faint crease line on front and back cover (About 3" on front and 5" on back) Book is fresh otherwise, with incredible, bold colors and "almost-like-new" gloss Pages are cream to light tan No "Marvel" chipping anywhere. Estimate $200-$300



318 - Star Spangled Comics (DC Comics 1951) #119 FN+. Glossy, bright cover. Pages cream to light tan Just very minor wear and the fact that cover shows about ¼" of white along spine from being stapled wrong, keeps this baby from the higher ground. Estimate $80-$120

319 - Nightmare (Ziff Davis 1952) #2 VG/FN. Front cover and interior are close to VF quality! The back cover has one small ⅛" chip at edge and some minor abrasions and a few small spots of dirt. There is a "B" stamped in ink on front painted cover Book contains art by Kinstler Estimate $60-$80

320 - The Black Terror (Standard 1947) #21 FN. Book is basically VF in every way, save for dark toning on edges of inside covers and bottom corner of first page. Covers are glossy with bold, fresh colors, highlighted by attractive Alex Schomburg cover art! Rust at staples. Estimate $75-$125

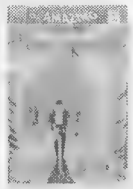
EXECUTIVE COLLECTIBLES PHONE AUCTION

Friday, October 16 - Phone (817) 337-1561 • Fax (817) 337-0789

321 - Amazing Spider-Man (Marvel Comics 1963) #5 FN. This book has got to be the best fine condition Spidey #5 on earth. It is glossy and fresh with cream to light tan pages. Colors are strong with no smearing as is usually seen on this book. The book is VF in every regard, save for a tiny chip at top right corner of cover and another tiny chip at right edge that is only noticeable upon close inspection. Estimate $300-$400

322 - Amazing Spider-Man (Marvel Comics 1971) #100 VF. NM, save for neat date stamp (Jun 7 1971) at top left of corner and a tiny indentation on cover that is in the red of Spidey's costume. Estimate $80-$120

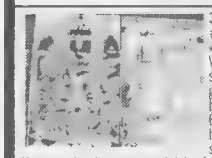
323 - Out of the Night (ACG 1951) #1 GD. Scarce first issue which features Al Feldstein art. Even though it looks like a FN, we've given it a technical grade of GD because it has a little dab of glue at top of spine to mend a ½" split. It also has small letters "ICC" scratched into cover and minor abrasions in two spots. Back cover has some chipping along one edge. Pages tan. Estimate $50-$75



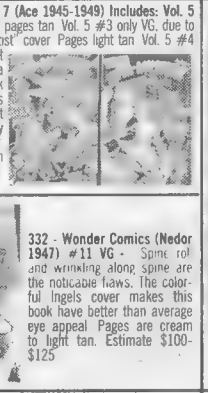
324 - Amazing Spider-Man (Marvel Comics 1967) #50 FN-. Classic anniversary issue by Romita. Attractive reddish/brown cover is glossy and fresh. There is a little wear at bottom edge and a bit at lower staple. Has great eye appeal. Pages off-white. Estimate $80-$120

325 - Jumbo Comics (Fiction House 1946-1947) #89 and #100. #89 is VF strong cover colors and gloss. Flat and tight with light tan pages. #100 is only FN, due to miscut cover (not noticeable from front). Back cover is about ⅜" shorter than the interior pages. Looks VF from front. Glossy and bright. Pages tan. 2nd to last page is "rough cut" at right edge. Estimate $125-$175

326 - The Monkees (Dell Comics 1967) #1 FN. First issue features a new vintage photo cover of the popular singing quartet. Book has a very small "pinch" at top edge of book that effects most pages, but does not break the paper on any. Otherwise, just very slight general wear. Glossy and bright. Estimate $25-$50



327 - Super - Mystery Comics Collection of 7 (Ace 1945-1949) Includes: Vol. 5 #2 FN; Great Torture cover. Tiny corner chip, pages tan. Vol. 5 #3 only VG, due to warping, but looks solid. Has neat "Mad Scientist" cover. Pages light tan. Vol. 5 #4 VG. Has cream pages. Average wear and light staining on covers. Vol. 6 #1 FN. Book has a great look to it! Colors abound against the black background of cover. Appears near VF, but has 6" corner crease at bottom right that does not break color. Pages are dark yellow. But still very supple. Vol. 6 #2 only VG, but appears better. Has great bondage cover with lots of color. Pages are somewhat brittle at edges, with chipping at top corner of some pages. Front cover has a ½" sliver chip at right edge. Slight scuffing near bottom staple. Vol. 7 #2 FN- Solid book, but has minor chipping at top and bottom of spine and ½ tear at top edge. Pages tan. Vol. 8 #5 FN+. VF save for light 2" corner crease at top right corner. Pages light tan. Has art by Mesun Tuska and Greene. Tough this nice! A nice selection of books from a difficult title. Estimate $350-$450

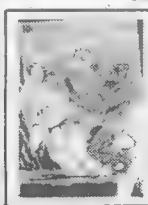


328 - Suspense Comics (Continental 1946) #1 2 FN-. A scarce book! Looks great, but has minor flaws that reduce grade. Such as, tiny corner chip at bottom right corner of cover, very faint diagonal corner crease (about 8"). Cover is slightly loose due to staple pulls. Pages are light yellow. Cover has great color and gloss. And of course, great L.B. Cole artwork. Estimate $400-$600

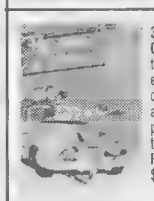
329 - Thrilling Crime Cases (Star 1951) #44 FN. Bright colors and gloss compliment this L.B. Cole cover. Pages light tan and inside covers dark yellow. Normal minor wear on covers from reading (i.e., minor creasing, etc.). Estimate $50-$70

330 - Weird Science (E.C. 1952) #14 FN. Terrific Wally Wood cover and story art! Normal wear at corners and spine from reading. No major flaws. Pages tan. Estimate $80-$100

331 - Weird Tales of the Future (S.P.M. 1952) #4 GD. Classic "Brain Bats of Venus" cover by Wolverton. Wolverton story art as well. Low grade from being enjoyed, but no major flaws. Spine roll and some creasing along with tan pages account for grade. Book is still very collectable. Estimate $75-$100



332 - Wonder Comics (Nedor 1947) #11 VG - Spine roll and wrinkling along spine are the noticable flaws. The colorful Ingels cover makes this book have better than average eye appeal. Pages are cream to light tan. Estimate $100-$125



333 - Action Comics (DC Comics 1948) #1 19 FN. For the grade this book has great eye appeal. Not for a couple of tiny color flakes off spine, and staple pull at bottom staple, the book would be closer to VF quality. Bold cover colors. Pages light tan. Estimate $125-$175

334 - Action Comics (DC Comics 1948) #120 FN+. Slightly nicer than the previous lot although with similar defects keeping it from VF. Cover has bold, fresh colors. Pages are light yellow. One tiny color flake off near spine and wear around lower staple and slight wear at bottom of spine. Book has a "VF look" to it. Estimate $150-$200

335 - Adventures Into the Unknown (ACG 1954) #54 FN-. Glossy black cover highlights this somewhat scarce 3-D comic. The small stress creases along spine and tiny split at bottom (about ⅛"), and ½" tear at edge of back cover keep it at only FN-. The book does have a good look to it. Estimate $75-$145

336 - Amazing Adventures (Ziff - Davis 1950) #1 strict VG. The front cover actually has a nice Fine look to it. It retains full original gloss with fresh, bold colors. There is some creasing near top edge and a small ¼" tear. The small insect "chews" at edges of back cover and corner chips affecting several pages and back cover, are what makes it only VG. Pages are light yellow. This book features artwork by some of comicdom's best artists such as Alex Schomburg, Wally Wood, and Murphy Anderson! Estimate $75-$125

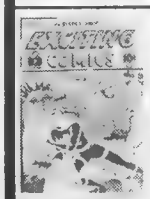
337 - Batman (DC Comics 1944) #25 VG. Features the first Joker and Penguin team - up. Black cover has a real nice look to it, but examination of spine reveals chipping and a 1" spine split at bottom and 2" at top. Pages are light yellow to dark tan. Estimate $250-$300

338 - Crown Comics (McCombs Publ. 1945) #4 FN+. Features Matt Baker cover and art. Colorful and glossy cover. Pages are light yellow. Very minor wrinkles and light scuffing on cover, keep it from VF. Estimate $75-$125

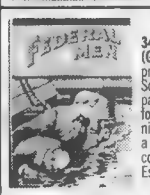
339 - Danger Trail (DC Comics 1951) #4 FN. Scarce! A seldom offered book. Minor stress creases along spine and minor wrinkling at right edge of front cover, keep this book from a higher grade. There is also a very small dab of silver paint on back cover. Not used as restoration, just there. Pages are light tan. Estimate $200-$250

340 - Darling Romance (MLJ 1949) #1 FN. Features a striking Betty Page photo cover! Wear along spine and top staple pull keep book from VF. Pages are supple and dark cream colored. Cover colors are strong. Estimate $60-$90

341 - Exciting Comics (Nedor 1944) #32 VG+. Features a fabulous Alex Schomburg war cover. Cover is very bright and glossy! Colors are fresh and bold. Interior pages are white at center, but toned at top and bottom borders. There is browning at top and bottom edges inside covers. The book is very solid, save for a ½" chip out of back of spine. Great eye appeal! Estimate $75-$125



342 - Exciting Comics (Nedor 1945) #37. Another great Alex Schomburg war cover. Nice cover colors. Pages are light yellow. Book is solid, but has staple pull, ½" edge tear at bottom of front cover, and a tiny tear at back of spine. Estimate $100-$150



343 - Federal Men Comics (Gerard Publ. 1945) #2 VG. A pretty scarce book. Siegal and Schuster art has "spanking" panel. Book is a solid FN, save for a stain about the size of a nickel, on front cover. There are a few small creases at top right corner of cover page. Light tan. Estimate $75-$100

344 - Fight Against Crime (Story Comics 1951) #'s 1 and 2. First issue is a nice FN/VF with bright, fresh color covers. Only some wear along center of spine area on back cover, keep it from VF or better. #2 has small some spine stress creases and some wear at bottom edge of front cover. There is also some large foxing spots on 1st page. FN. Estimate $200-$250

345 - Manhunt (ME 1948) #4 strict FN+. Close to VF. Neat fire engine red cover with eerie skeletal hand delivering a letter from Death, Inc. Cool! Interior paper is light tan. Estimate $100-$150

346 - Nightmare (St. John 1952) #3 FN. Painted cover is glossy and fresh, but has some light wrinkling in a couple spots and some wear at bottom staple. Interior paper nice cream color and book features Ray Kinstler art. Estimate $75-$100

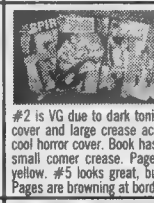
347 - Planet Comics (Fiction House 1947) #49 FN. Cover is miscut, as is common with this title. Also, some fading has occurred, but is not obvious. There are two very small tears (about ¼" each) at edge of back cover. Interior paper tan. Estimate $125-$175

348 - Planet Comics (Fiction House 1948) #53 FN-. Looks VF at 1st glance, but has a very, very small chip out near spine at bottom of front cover. Very minor staple pull at top. Striking bondage cover. Book used in S.O.T.I. Pages light tan. A little darker tan at edges. Estimate $75-$125

349 - Planet Comics (Fiction House 1949) #58 VF. Great looking space age cover. Fresh colors and square corners. Interior paper is a dark cream color. Only notable flaws are two tiny, tiny edge tears on back cover (1/32" ea.) Estimate $200-$250

350 - Planet Comics (Fiction House 1952) #67 FN. Has a strong VF look to it at 1st glance. However, there is a ½" long sliver chip at top edge of front cover. Colors are very strong and fresh. Gloss is outstanding. Books near the end of this run are very tough in high grade due to very limited print runs and distribution. Back cover has a small chip out of tip of bottom corner and a few other tiny chips at edges. Interior paper is tan. Inside covers are dark yellow. Estimate $90-$120

351 - Red Seal Comics (Chesler 1947) #20 VG/FN. Has strong cover colors and neat horror cover art. Cover has a long vertical crease that does not break color. There is slight rippling at top of pages. Probably from moisture, not bad, though. Pages are light tan. Estimate $80-$120

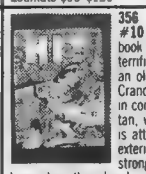


352 - The Spirit (Fiction House 1952-1954) #'s 2 & 5 are VG, #3 FN. Books have good eye appeal because each has bright and glossy covers which feature Will Eisner art, of course. #2 is VG due to dark toning on inside and outside back cover and large crease across front cover. #3 sports a cool horror cover. Book has normal wear along spine and small corner crease. Pages and inside covers are light yellow. #5 looks great, but has a 4" spine split at top. Pages are browning at borders. Estimate $150-$200

353 - Star Spangled Comics (DC Comics 1951-1952) #'s 122, 124 FN. 122 starts the Ghost - Breaker series. A tough book in any grade, this one looks VF at 1st glance, but has a tiny chip out of bottom right corner of cover and a thin film of some sort of shiny residue at top of front cover. Only noticeable in certain lighting angles and only in a small area. Pages cream to light tan. #124 is above average, considering how tough it is. Black cover shows a couple of light creases and a ½" tear at bottom staple. There is a sliver out of top edge of back cover (¼"). Pages cream to light yellow. Estimate $175-$250

354 - Superman (DC Comics 1951) #68 VG/FN. A good looking copy with bold cover colors. Pages are supple and dark cream colored. There is some wrinkling near bottom staple which is pulled through cover. Also, a 1" spine split at bottom. This book features the 1st Luthor cover for this title. Estimate $100-$150

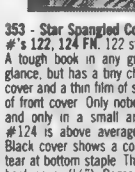
355 - Super-Mystery Comics (Ace 1943) Vol. 3 #6. Apparent FN/FN+. A superb looking book. Glossy, action-packed cover, with lots of color. Unfortunately, somebody chose to put several dabs of black color tough to spine, which does show on inside cover when inspected. There are also 3 pages that have had a little nice paper reinforcement near top. It doesn't even appear that the work was necessary. Pages are supple and light tan. Book includes some interior art by L.B. Cole and Kurtzman. Estimate $100-$150



356 - Hit Comics (Quality 1941) #10 FR/GD. Despite grade, this book has a lot going for it. It has a terrific Lou Fine cover and contains an old witch story, with art by Reed Crandall, which was his first artwork in comics. Interior is supple and light tan, with darker tan at edges. Cover is attached by tape, both inside and exterior at spine. Cover color still strong, except in the "I" and "T" of logo, where there has been slight erasure. Estimate $100-$150

357 - World's Finest Comics (DC Comics 1943) #9 FR/GD. Has a terrific cover depicting Batman, Robin, and Superman hurling baseballs at the faces of Hitler, Tojo, and Mussolini. Cover is detached and so is 1st page, but paper quality of interior is nice. Pages are very supple, with cream to light tan color. Inks are strong throughout, including cover. Estimate $75-$125

358 - Flash Comics (DC Comics 1940) #3 GD. Interior is complete, with paper quality being light tan and supple. There is one page that has a tiny hole through it and two others that have some light stains (looks like coffee), just at about ⅛ of the page. There are also two small pieces of tape at staple area of centerfold page. The Shelly Moldoff cover is rough, due to creasing and minor edge tears along with a ½" piece of tape at top of spine and a 3" piece along bottom of spine. There is wear at corners and a slight spine roll which is normally expected for this grade. A name has been erased from yellow logo area of cover. There is also light penciling in the "F" and "L". Cover colors, for the most part, are still bold. Estimate $300-$500

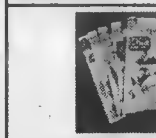


359 - The Flame (Fox 1940-1941) #'s 2 and 7 FR/GD. Cover of #2 has been detached from interior and has an 8" piece of tape which holds the front and back together. The interior pages are tan and supple. No major defects in interior. Only corner wear #7 has strong cover colors and retains some of its original gloss, but is held together and attached to interior, by tape. There are only two small pieces of tape on the exterior, but quite a bit on inside covers. Interior pages very nice, as they are square and supple, with light tan color. Lot also includes the Flame (Ajax 1955) #2 is G/VG. Estimate $100-$200

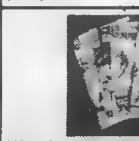
360 - Golden Age Comics Collection of 4. Includes Zip Comics (MLJ 1940) #2 FR. Extensive taping to front cover and last page of interior. Blackhawk #19 (Quality 1948) GD, due to two small pieces of tape at top staple of front cover. Dynamic comics (Chesler 1946) #19 GD-, due to two small pieces of tape at top staple and bottom of spine. Police Comics (Quality 1945) #41 FR/GD, due to centerfold being detached and rusty staples. Estimate $100-$150

361 - Amazing Fantasy (Atlas Mag.1962) #15. Origin and 1st appearance of Spider-Man by Stan Lee & Steve Ditko. Solid copy with no Marvel chipping. Good colors and overall eye appeal for a low grade copy. Most of the wear is at spine and at top of front cover. Interior paper is cream. GD/VG. Estimate $1,200-$1,600

362 - Amazing Spider-Man (Marvel Comics 1963) #'s 1, 2, 4, 5. Books feature some great battles with the Fantastic Four (#1), Vulture (#2), Sandman (#4) & Dr. Doom (#5). Issue #1 has tape at right edge of front cover and chipping at top. GD overall. Estimate $700-$900



365 - Amazing Spider-Man (Marvel Comics 1964) #'s 12-15, 17-19. Features 1st appearance of Mysterio (#3), Green Goblin (#14), Kraven (#15). FR/GD overall. Estimate $200-$250

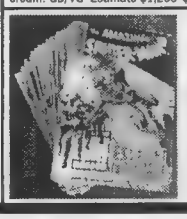


366 - Amazing Spider-Man (Marvel Comics 1964-1965) #'s 11, 16, 20-23. #11 has appearance by Doc Ock. #16 Daredevil. #20 1st Scorpion. #23 Green Goblin. VG/FN overall. Estimate $300-$400

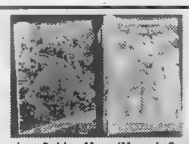
364 - Amazing Spider-Man (Marvel Comics 1963-1964) #'s 3, 8, 9. 1st appearance of Doc Ock (#3) and Electro (#9). Issue #3 is VG+. #'s 8, 9 VG with no Marvel chipping. Estimate $400-$600

368 - Amazing Spider-Man (Marvel Comics 1966-1968) #'s 39-64. Classic stories and artwork by John Romita Sr. VG to VG+ overall. Estimate $300-$400

367 - Amazing Spider-Man (Marvel Comics 1965-1966) #'s 24-38. All Steve Ditko issues. Some classic stories. VG+ overall. Estimate $300-$500



369 - Amazing Spider-Man (Marvel Comics 1968-1971) #'s 65-99. VG to FN overall. Estimate $200-$400



370 - Amazing Spider-Man (Marvel Comics 1971-Present) #'s 100-223, 268-376. Issues #100-200 VG to FN, #201-223 FN, #268-376 VF to VF/NM overall. Estimate $300-$400

371 - Metal Men (DC Comics 1963-1978) #'s 1-56. Issue #1 is a nice FN with good colors and interior paper. A few chips on back cover. The rest of the run averages out to VG/VG+ overall. Estimate $300-$400

372 - Lois Lane Near Complete Run (DC Comics 1958-1974) Lois Lane #'s 2-36, 38-137. A solid group of books from a difficult run to complete. Issue #2 PR, #3 GD, #4 GD, rest of run is GD+ to VG+ overall. Estimate $800-$1000

EXECUTIVE COLLECTIBLES PHONE AUCTION

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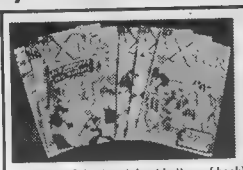
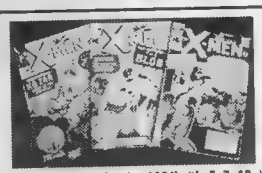
373 - X-Men (Marvel Comics 1963) #1. Origin and 1st appearance of original X-Men, Professor X and their most deadly foe Magneto. Good looking solid copy with no Marvel chipping. Colors on cover are faded a bit with interior paper being cream. VG+. Estimate $600-$800



374 - X-Men (Marvel Comics 1963-1964) #'s 2-4, 6, 8, 9. Issue #2 VG; 3 VG/FN; 4 VG (water stain at bottom of book); 6, 8, 9 all VG+ with no Marvel chipping. Estimate $400-$600



375 - X-Men (Marvel Comics 1964) #'s 5, 7, 10. Issue 5 GD; 7 VG- (tape); 10 GD. Estimate $75-$125

376 - X-Men (Marvel Comics 1965-1966) #'s 15-17, 21, 25, 26. Issues 15-17 & 25 all VG with no Marvel chipping; #21 GD (spine roll); 26 GD+. Estimate $100-$125

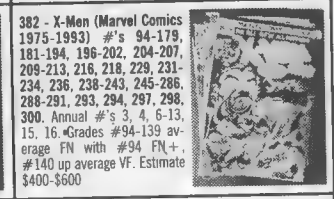
377 - X-Men (Marvel Comics 1965-1966) #'s 11-14, 18. GD+ overall with no Marvel chipping Estimate $100-$125

378 - X-Men (Marvel Comics 1966-1967) #'s 19, 20, 22-24, 27, 28, 30. Good looking copies with nice colors and no Marvel chipping. Issue #19 FN+ with all other issues VG+ overall. Estimate $150-$175

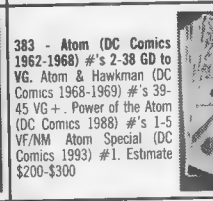
379 - X-Men (Marvel Comics 1967-1968) #'s 31, 32, 34, 42, 44, 46-48. GD/VG overall. Estimate $40-$50

380 - X-Men (Marvel Comics 1967-1968) #'s 33, 35-41, 45, 49-51. Attractive, flat, clean group of books. #49-51 have artwork by Steranko. VG+ to FN overall. Estimate $200-$225

381 - X-Men (Marvel Comics 1969-1975) #52-93. Some great issues, highlighted by Neal Adams artwork/covers (#56-63, 65) VG/FN average condition. Estimate $250-$300

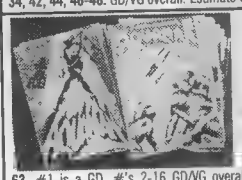


382 - X-Men (Marvel Comics 1975-1993) #'s 94-179, 181-194, 196-202, 204-207, 209-213, 216, 218, 229, 231-234, 236, 238-243, 245-286, 288-291, 293, 294, 297, 298, 300. Annual #'s 3, 4, 6-13, 15, 16. Grades #94-139 average FN with #94 FN+, #140 up average VF. Estimate $400-$600

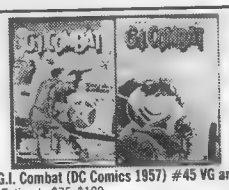


383 - Atom (DC Comics 1962-1968) #'s 2-38 GD to VG. Atom & Hawkman (DC Comics 1968-1969) #'s 39-45 VG+. Power of the Atom (DC Comics 1988) #'s 1-5 VF/NM Atom Special (DC Comics 1993) #1. Estimate $200-$300

384 - Atom (DC Comics 1962) #1. Bright, clean, flat & tight copy with good cover gloss. Interior paper is tan Strict FN Estimate $175-$225



385 - Aquaman (DC Comics 1962) #'s 1-63. #1 is a GD, #'s 2-16 GD/VG overall, #'s 17-63 VG/FN overall. Estimate $300-$400



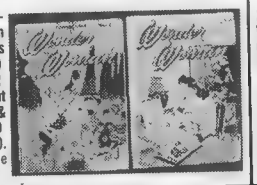
386 - G.I. Combat (DC Comics 1957) #45 VG and #55 VG+. Estimate $75-$100

387 - G.I. Combat (DC Comics 1964-1967) #'s 107, 113, 121-123, 131, 135-137, 139, 140, 142, 143, 156, 161, 169, 176-179, 181, 183, 185-187, 189, 191, 193, 194, 196, 199, 200, 219, 220, 225-228, 230, 236-239, 241-246, 248, 249, 288. Grades: #'s 107-161 GD+ overall; #'s 169-230 VG+ overall; #'s 236-288 FN/VF overall. Estimate $150-$200

388 - Hawkman (DC Comics 1964-1968) #'s 1-27. #1 GD, #2 and #3 VG+, #'s 4-27 GD+ to VG+ overall Estimate $200-$300

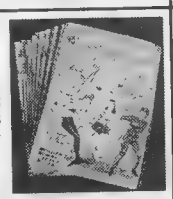
389 - Mystery in Space (DC Comics 1959) #53. Adam Strange series begins. Tough issue in any condition. VG-. Estimate $200-$300

390 - Mystery in Space (DC Comics 1959-1964) #'s 46, 54-96. Very difficult run featuring Adam Strange and Hawkman. VG overall. Some issues have rust at staples. Estimate $600-$900

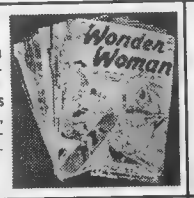


391 - Wonder Woman (DC Comics 1945/1947) #13 FR (chunk out of cover) & #25 GD (spine roll). Estimate $75-$100

392 - Wonder Woman Silver-Age Group (DC Comics 1955-1961) #'s 73, 74, 77, 78, 85, 92-94, 100, 101, 104, 110, 112, 116, 117, 120-124. Low grade run from a very difficult era. All books are solid with decent eye appeal GD/VG overall. Estimate $200-$250



393 - Wonder Woman Silver - Age Group (DC Comics 1961-1964) #'s 125-144, VG overall. Estimate $75-$125



394 - Wonder Woman (DC Comics 1964-1985) #'s 145-200 VG+ overall, #'s 201-249 FN overall, #250 up are VF overall. Estimate $200-$400

395 - Superman (DC Comics 1946-1947) #40 and #45. Issue #40 PR. Issue #45 FR Estimate $50-$75

397 - Superman (DC Comics 1952-1958) #79 GD-, 85 VG-, 89 FR/GD (tape), 90 GD+, 99 VG, 100 PR/FR, 103 FR, 105 GD, 106 FR-, 109 FR, 112 GD, 118 FR+. Low grade, but complete copies of tough issues. Estimate $250-$350

398 - Superman (DC Comics 1956) #104 FN/FN+. Flat, clean & glossy. Estimate $100-$200

399 - Superman (DC Comics) #'s 110, 114, 116, 117, 119, 121, 124-126, 128-131, 133, 134. Solid, low grade run. Issues #119, 133, 134 have water damage. #121 writing in logo area. Overall GD/GD+. Estimate $250-$300

400 - Superman (DC Comics 1955-1960) #'s 101, 102, 107, 108, 111, 122, 127, 132, 135. VG overall. Estimate $300-$400

401 - Superman #1 Annual (DC Comics 1960) Solid copy of the first DC Silver - Age annual. VG. Estimate $125-$175

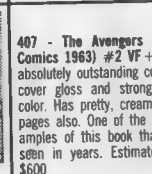
402 - Superman Annuals (DC Comics 1960-1964) #'s 2-8. #2 GD, 3-4 VG, 5 GD (water damage), 6 FR (water damage), 7 GD, 8 VG (spine split). Low grade, but solid, complete issues. Estimate $125-$175

403-80 Page Giant Set (DC Comics 1964-1965) #'s 1-15. Grades are #'s 1-5, 8, 9, 12, 15 GD/VG overall; #'s 6, 11, 13, 14 VG overall; #7 FN. Estimate $250-$300

404 - House of Secrets (DC Comics 1958-1966) #'s 13, 56, 59, 60, 63, 64, 67, 69, 70, 73, 76, 83, 120, 128, 131-137. Issues # 13, 56, 59, 60, 67, 69, 70, 73, 76 are GD to GD/VG All others FN overall. Estimate $100-$150

405 - House of Secrets (DC Comics 1964) #66. 1st Eclipso cover. Sharp, tight, flat with nice cover gloss. Fresh cream interior paper FN+. Estimate $30-$50

406 - Captain Marvel (Marvel Comics 1968-1979) #'s 1-62. #1 FR (tape); #2-11 VG to VG/FN; #12-16 FN; #17 VG, #18 FN, #19 VG, #20-24, 27, 29, 30, 32, 34, 36, 41, 45, 49, 53, 54, 56, 59, 61 and Giant Size #1 are FN overall; #'s 52, 57 GD; #58 VG, #'s 25, 26, 28, 31, 33, 35, 37-40, 42-44, 46-48, 50, 51, 55, 60, 62 are FN+ to VF overall. Estimate $150-$200



407 - The Avengers (Marvel Comics 1963) #2 VF+. An absolutely outstanding copy. Full cover gloss and strong, strong color. Has pretty, cream colored pages also. One of the best examples of this book that we've seen in years. Estimate $400-$600

408 - Avengers (Marvel Comics 1963-1966) #'s 1 FR (tape & color touch), 3 FR, 4 GD, 5 GD, 6 GD/VG, 7 GD/VG, 8 GD, 9 GD/VG, 10 FR/GD, 11 GD, 12 GD, 14 GD, 16 GD, 18 GD, 20 GD, 21 FR, 23 GD, 24 FR, 25 GD, 26 GD, 27 GD, 28 GD. Estimate $400-$500

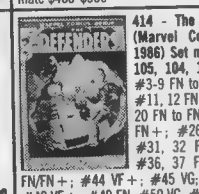
409 - The Avengers Group of 17 (Marvel Comics 1965-1968) Includes #'s 13, 15, 17, 19, 22, 29-34, 36, 38, 42, 43, 45, 50. Overall VG (#32 GD). Estimate $100-$125

410 - Avengers (Marvel Comics 1963-1966) #'s 1 FR (tape & color touch), 3 FR, 4 GD, 5 GD, 6 GD/VG, 7 GD/VG, 8 GD, 9 GD/VG, 10 FR/GD, 11 GD, 12 GD, 14 GD, 16 GD, 18 GD, 20 GD, 21 FR, 23 GD, 24 FR, 25 GD, 26 GD, 27 GD, 28 GD. Estimate $400-$500

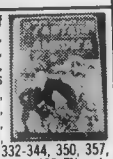
411 - The Avengers Collection of 97 Different. (Marvel Comics 1968-1991) Includes #'s 53, 71, 74, 80, 81, 113 overall FN+; 117 VF, 121-124, 127, 128, 131-133, 136, 137, 145, 148, 151-154, 157, 162, 169, 171, 174, 175-182, 184, 194, 199, 201, 202, 204, 207, 209-215, 217, 218-220, 224, 227, 228, 230, 233-235, 237-239, 242, 244, 245, 247, 251, 254, 257, 263-265, 267, 269, 270, 275, 278, 287, 288, 290, 294-296, 298, 299, 317, 326, 328, 331, 342, Giant Size 2, Annual #9, 11-13. Most NM or better Estimate $200-$300

412 - Marvel Team-Up (Marvel Comics 1972-1985) #'s 1-150. A complete set of the popular title that matched Spider-Man with most of Marvel's other heroes in one issue or another. Issue #1 FN; 2 VF-; 3 GD; 4 FN; 5 VG; 6-10 FN, 11 GD; 12-49 average FN; 50-60 average FN+; 61-65, 67, 68, 75, 76, 81, 85 VG; 66, 69, 70-74, 77-80, 82-84, 86-150 average FN+-VF, a few FN; Annual #1, 4-7 VF; 2 FN; 3 VG. Estimate $60-$90

413 - Ironman (Marvel Comics 1968-1993) #'s 1-290 (except for 38 books) plus Annuals #1-7, Giant Size #1, and Ironman and Submariner #1. A near complete 30 year run. Includes #'s 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 16, 18, 20, 21, 24, 29, 32, 36-39, 42, 45, 47, 48, 52, 55, 57, 61, 62, 65, 71 all VG; #'s 3, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12-15, 17, 19, 22, 25, 26-28, 34, 35, 40, 41, 43, 44, 49-51, 53, 54, 58-60, 63, 64, 66-70, 72-106, 108-114 average FN, #'s 116-211, 213-220, 222-227, 229-232, 237, 240, 243, 244, 246-248, 250, 253-254, 257-259, 261-266, 275, 278, 280, 286, 288, 290 average VF/NM; #'s 107, 115 GD; #'s 30, 31, 33, 46 FR; Ironman & Submariner #1 FN; Annual #1, 2 VG; #3 FN, #4 VF; #'s 5-7, 10 NM; Giant Size #1 FN. Estimate $400-$500



414 - The Defenders Near Set (Marvel Comics Group 1972-1986) Set missing only #81, 83, 105, 104, 144, 145. #1, 2 FN; #3-9 FN to FN+; #10 VF/VF+; #11, 12 FN+; #13, 14 VF; #15-20 FN to FN+; #21-24 VG; #25 FN+; #26-29 VG, #30 FN+; #31, 32 FN; #33-35 VF/VF+; #36, 37 FN; #38 VG; #39-43 FN/FN+; #44 VF+; #45 VG; #46 VF; #47 FN+; #48 VF+; #49 FN; #50 VG; #51-54 FN+; #55 NM; #56-58 FN+; #59 VG; #60 VF; #61-73 FN to FN+; #74 NM; #75 FN; #76-78 VF/NM; #79 VG; #80 NM, #82 FN; #84-86 VG; #87 VF+; #88-91 FN; #92 VG; #93 NM; #94-96 FN/FN+; #97 VF+; #98, 99 FN; #100 VF+; #101-103 FN; #104 NM; #106 FN; #107 VF/NM; #108 VF/NM; #109-113 FN to FN+; #114, 115 VF/NM; #116 FN; #117-122 VF/NM; #123-125 FN/FN+; 126-131 VF/NM; #132-134 FN+; #135, 136 NM; #137 FN; #138 VF; #139 FN; #141 VF; #142 VG; #143 VF/NM; #146-148 VF/NM; #149 FN; #150 VG; #151 FN; #152 NM; Giant-Size #1-5 FN to FN+; Annual #1 FN. Estimate $100-$150

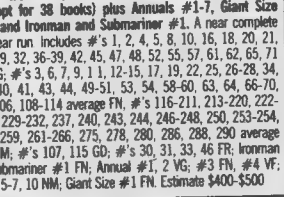


415 - Captain America Group of 240 Different. Includes #'s 100, 102, 115, 125, 126, 128, 129, 132, 134, 141-143, 150, 156, 157, 158, 163, 165, 178, 186 overall VG; #'s 101, 103-114, 116-124, 127, 130, 131, 133, 135-140, 144, 145-149, 151-155, 159-162, 164, 166-169, 170-177 average FN; #'s 179-183, 187-302, 304-310, 314, 325, 328, 332-344, 350, 357, 375-377, 379, 398, 400, 404, 405, 407, 409 FN+ to VF/NM; Annual #2 GD, #5 FN+; Giant Size #1 FN. Estimate $250-$350

416 - Sea Devils Group of 19 Different (DC Comics 1961-1966) Includes #'s 1, 2, 13 G/VG; #'s 3-9, 18, 21, 24 VG; #'s 11, 12, 15, 17, 25, 30 FN. Estimate $200-$300

417 - Rip Hunter Time Master (DC Comics 1961-1965) Near set. Only missing #'s 10, 12, 19 & 24 for completion. Includes #'s 1, 15 G/VG; #'s 4, 6, 7, 13, 14, 16-18, 20, 22, 26 GD; #'s 2, 8, 11, 27-29 VG; #'s 3, 5, 10, 21, 23, 25 FN. Estimate $250-$350

418 - Superman (DC Comics 1960-1962) #'s 137, 138, 142, 145, 146, 148-150. Solid, low grade issues. #148 (tape at staples), #150 (water damage). GD overall. Estimate $75-$100



423 - Superman (DC Comics 1967-1984) #'s 200-401. Superman (2nd series) #'s 1-19, 44, 50, 71, 72, 74, 78; Man of Steel #'s 1-6, Superman: Secret Years #'s 1-4. A super run of books. Issues #200-345 VG+ to FN+; #346-401 VF overall. All other issues VF/NM overall. Estimate $200-$400

424 - Action Comics (DC Comics 1945 & 1947). #88 GD and #115 FR. Low grade, complete copies. #115 has complete spine split. Estimate $50-$75

419 - Superman (DC Comics 1960-1961) #'s 136, 139-141, 143, 144, 147. Solid, clean issues with good cover colors and interior paper. VG+ overall. Estimate $150-$200

420 - Superman (DC Comics 1962-1966) #'s 152, 154, 156, 160-163, 165, 167, 169, 171-180, 182. GD overall. #167 coupon clip from back cover. Estimate $100-$125

421 - Superman (DC Comics 1962-1965) #'s 151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 164, 166, 168, 170, 181. Attractive books. VG overall with #157, 158 and 181 FN+. Estimate $150-$200

422 - Superman (DC Comics 1966-1967) #'s 183-199. Featuring the first Superman/Flash race (#199). GD/VG overall. Estimate $100-$125

425 - Action Comics (DC Comics 1953-1959) #184 FR, #191 GD (detached) and #251 FR/GD. Estimate $50-$75

426 - Action Comics (DC Comics 1957-1959) #'s 224, 225, 249. Attractive copies with good color and eye appeal. Strict VG+ overall. Estimate $75-$125

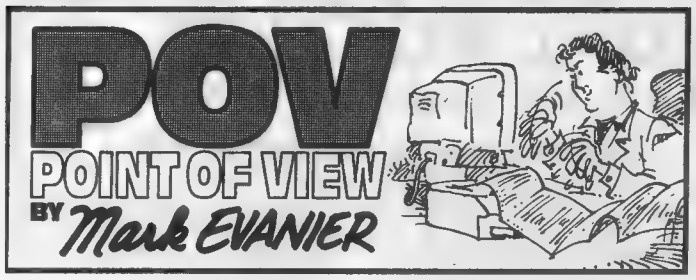
427 - Action Comics (DC Comics 1959-1963) #'s 259, 262, 264-266, 273, 277-279, 281-285, 287-292, 295, 296, 299. Some very tough issues. Low grade, complete copies. GD+ overall. Estimate $150-$200

428 - Action Comics (DC Comics 1957-1962) #'s 235, 253, 255, 257, 258, 267, 270, 272, 280, 286, 293, 294. Group includes 3rd Legion app. (#267) and origin Comet, Superhorse (#293). Good looking group of books with deep colors and excellent eye appeal. VG+ overall. Estimate $300-$400

429 - Action Comics (DC Comics 1963-1967) #'s 302, 304-307, 310, 312, 314, 315, 320, 321, 323 (PR-coverless), 326, 328-330, 332, 334-338, 341-350. Earlier issues GD+ overall. (#323 coverless). #330-350 VG/VG+ overall. Estimate $75-$100

430 - Action Comics (DC Comics 1963-1966) #'s 300, 301, 303, NON, 311-313, 316-319, 327, 331, 339, 340. Issue #340 has origin and 1st appearance of Parasite. FN overall. #300 and #301 are FN+. Estimate $125-$150

431 - Action Comics (DC Comics 1966-1993) #'s 351-394, 397-558, 561, 570, 577, 582-601, 619, 643, 662, 692. A great run of books starring the Man of Steel. #351-520 are VG to FN. #520 on up are VF to NM. Estimate $300-$600



As we all know, most comic-book art is pencilled and then inked. That is, an artist does the drawing in pencil on a piece of Bristol Board (art paper) and then another artist — or the same guy — takes a pen and/or brush and goes over the pencil lines in ink. The final result is a piece of original art that is said to be the work of both artists. That is, if Gil Kane pencilled it and then Murphy Anderson inked it, we say that is a piece of Kane/Anderson original art. Very simple.

But I don't think most folks are aware that some comic-book art in the past has been produced by a penciller and inker who didn't actually work on the same piece of paper.

The method I am about to describe has most often been employed on "funny animal" comics, but it's been used in books of a more serious style, as well. It was especially prevalent around Western Publishing (Dell Comics and, later, Gold Key) and was used in perhaps two-thirds of their Disney and Warner Brothers comics. They called it the "tissue" method, even though the paper involved was usually a good quality tracing paper or vellum.

Most artists, when they draw with a pencil, do not just sit down and draw their final lines. They do a certain amount of what some call "underdrawing" — light sketching, often barely visible — and then, when they're satisfied they have plotted the basic construction points of the image, they will then go to a darker line for the final image.

There are many variations on this, of course. Some artists will do their underdrawing and basic layout with a light blue pencil, then switch to a normal pencil as they do the final drawing. And some artists who ink their own work bypass this stage altogether. Their pencils are their underdrawing and then they do their real drawing in ink.

With the tissue method, the penciller can make as big a mess as he likes with his underdrawing and still give the inker a clean pencil drawing from which to work. Instead of drawing on the final art paper, he sketches on other sheets, usually of white bond. Then he places the tissue (or vellum) over this and, using the same pencil, traces his final draft of the art onto the tissue.

The tissue is what he hands in. It is then taped to the back of a piece of two-ply (not too thick) piece of illustration board. The inker — sometimes the same person, usually not — will then work on a light table. (Quick glossary for non-artists: A light table is a drawing board that has a piece of glass or translucent plastic as its main surface, with a fluorescent or incandescent light below. The inker can see the drawing through the illustration board and can then use the usual inking tools to trace the drawing onto the art paper. Later, the tissue is discarded.)

This method has many advantages, especially for cartoony art. Here are the first five that come to mind:

1. It's especially comfortable for artists who are accustomed to working in animation. Most of the folks who drew for Western had worked for or were moonlighting from Disney or Warners or some other studio. When they worked in cartoons, they worked on light tables, constantly tracing their roughs to produce clean animation drawings.

2. It yields very clean, tight pencil drawings. Art for funny animal comics tends to be free of extraneous lines.

3. Two words: No erasing.

4. The inkers might not like working on a light table (some do, some don't) but many of them like working on a piece of illustration paper that is absolutely fresh. When I edited comics for Hanna-Barbera, I had one inker who refused to ink art not done on tissues.

Said he, "If the penciller works on the board, by the time it gets to me, the paper surface is ripped to shreds by the point of his pencil, plus all the erasing he's probably done. There's oil from his fingers all over the art, and that makes it difficult for me to use the kind of brush and ink I prefer. Plus, if the penciller smokes, the paper usually reeks of tobacco and I have to sit there and smell it while I work on the job. It's so much easier for me to start with a pristine piece of board."

(He wasn't kidding about that tobacco odor. I actually did have one penciller whose work no one wanted to ink — not because of the art but because of the smell. His artwork literally stunk.)

5. The tissue method also makes it possible to re-ink a story. Once, I gave an assignment, pencilled on tissues, to a new inker who handed back a sub-standard job. Had he done this over art pencilled directly on the board, the penciller's work would have been destroyed. In this case, I merely took the tissues, gave them to a better inker, and had him redo the pages.

That's five, and there are probably others, too.

•

Thousands of comics have been drawn this way. You may not be familiar with the names Pete Alvarado, Harvey Eisenberg, Kay Wright, and Tony Strobl, but those are four of the most prolific comic-book artists in history. They pencilled all or nearly all of their zillions of pages on tissues. It was, at one point, a very common method of drawing funnybooks.

Yet, most folks who work in or study comics have never heard about it. I probably have about two dozen books on how to write and draw comic books and, if any of them even mentioned this technique, I sure missed it.

Back in '75, my friend Mike Royer was doing some inking for DC and he was sent an issue of *Freedom Fighters* to letter and ink. Ric Estrada had done what are sometimes called *breakdowns* — rough, unfinished pencilling — and Mike was supposed to turn this into finished art. (Watch this space in three or four weeks for a discussion of the various degrees of pencilling: layouts, breakdowns, shakedowns, *etc.*)

In order to clean up and tighten what Estrada had done, Mike decided to employ a variation on the tissue method. He had worked for Western on some of their funny animal comics, so he was quite familiar with it.

He took Estrada's pages — which were on regular Bristol Board — then put them on his light table and traced the important lines onto other illustration paper. He did some additional pencilling, then lettered and inked on that other paper. When he turned the job in to DC, he not only sent them 18 pages of finished *Freedom Fighters* art, he sent them back the untouched Estrada pencilled pages.

The day his package arrived at DC, I happened to be loitering in their halls, pretending I was in the business. The folks there were happy with the art but baffled as to how he had managed to ink Ric Estrada's pencils — but still return Ric Estrada's pencils. Grown men, some of whom had worked in comics for decades, were wandering around going, "Did you see what Royer did? How did he do that?" I explained to them all about inking on a light table but they looked at me as though I'd grown antlers.

One production assistant — a gent long and unsurprisingly out of the industry — was for some reason outraged at Mike's ingenuity. He proclaimed, "We hired him to ink Estrada's pencilling, not trace it onto other paper."

"You're happy with the results, aren't you?" I asked.

"Oh, yes. It looks great."

"So what's the problem?"

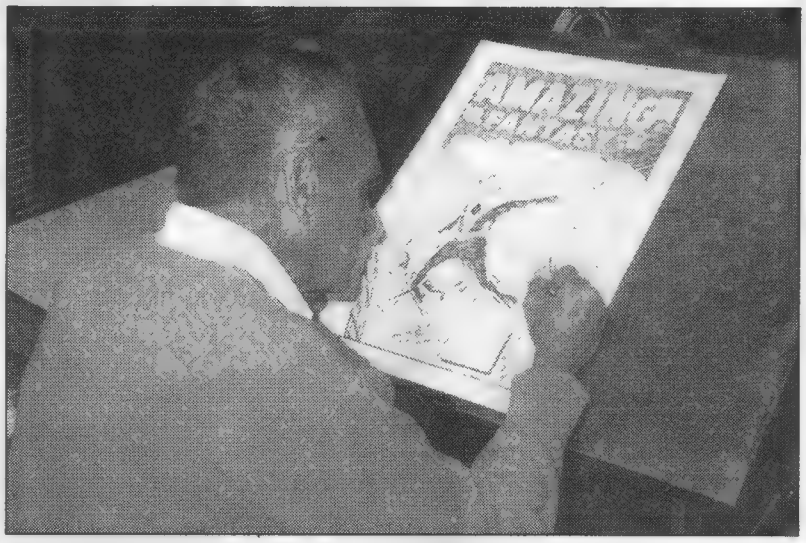
He thought for about five minutes — or, at least, it seemed like five minutes. Finally, he announced, "When we return the original art, how can we divide it up between penciller and inker?" (DC had just started returning original art after publication.)

I said, "How about: You send Estrada the pages with his art on them and you send Royer the pages he did?"

He pondered that for another five minutes, then said, "I suppose that would work."

I told this story as part of my ongoing crusade in this column. You remember that crusade. It's the one about how there are many different ways to write or draw a

"An interesting controversy appears to be brewing — one that requires us to more clearly define 'original artwork.'"



Jack Kirby at his drawing table.

JUGGLING Multiple Titles

Brent Frankenhoff
CBG Associate Editor

Silence of the Bat

As the "Aftershocks" of Gotham City's "Cataclysm" continue to rumble throughout DC's Batman titles, the individual series have gone to more self-contained pieces.

One of the best of the lot is the story in *Detective Comics* #726 (Oct 98, $1.99). Chuck Dixon and Brian Stelfreeze seamlessly work Batman's ongoing quest to save a kidnapped little girl with his earlier visit to The Joker at Arkham Asylum.

The interaction between The Dark Knight and his arch-nemesis reads like something from *Silence of the Lambs,* and one keeps expecting The Joker to start spouting Hannibal the Cannibal lines, but instead a new facet of the relationship between the two adversaries is revealed.

Hopefully, these type of stories will continue once Batman gets back from the "One Million" crossover. This is the way Batman should be written.

comic book and how all those "how to" books do a disservice by describing only one.

I think companies get into procedural ruts. They develop a certain assembly-line process — one person does this, one person does that, and so on — and then everything gets done that way. This is, to my mind, silly. Writers are all different, artists are all different, and different projects are (or should be) all different. So we who do them owe it to ourselves to learn every possible method, experiment with every possible method, and even to invent new ones.

•

Before I go, **I have a related topic to discuss.** An interesting controversy appears to be brewing — one that requires us to more clearly define "original artwork."

I don't think he's around any more but, years ago, there was an artist who sold original Jack Kirby art that Jack had never drawn. Let us call him, for the sake of explanation, Mr. Shmidlap.

Shmidlap would find some Kirby sketch in a fanzine and he would trace it onto illustration board, ink it, and sign the drawing, "Kirby/Shmidlap." He would then sell it for the prices one might charge for an unpublished Kirby sketch. Sometimes, he would trace a cover that Jack did for *Captain America* or some other comic book and represent it as a preliminary rough of Jack's that he'd inked. (Hint to art buyers: Jack didn't do a lot of preliminary rough sketches in his career — and most of them were not tight enough that someone else could really ink them.)

I'm not sure if Shmidlap actually fibbed and claimed the piece had begun with an actual Kirby pencil drawing or if he merely allowed them to believe this. But the folks who bought them usually thought that Jack had sketched something on that very piece of paper and then Shmidlap had inked it in. I believe he did this with other artists, as well, but the only ones I was certain the first artist had never touched were those ostensibly drawn by Kirby.

This was unethical. In fact, it was often unethical on two levels: The art was misrepresented to the buyer, and then one of these drawings might be published in a fanzine and ballyhooed as "A new cover by Jack Kirby." Jack was always a little amazed to find that he had drawn a cover for some magazine without lifting a pencil.

Now, in the last few years, we have seen a growing market for re-creations, especially of covers. C.C. Beck did them, Dick Sprang does them, Sheldon Moldoff does them, Gil Kane does them, many artists have done them.

Kirby, in the last few years of his life, did several, many of them inked by folks like Dick Ayers and Joe Sinnott. Dick and Joe have done a number on their own, tracing covers they originally did with Jack or other artists.

There is no problem with these being confused with originals. The re-creations I've seen have been represented as nothing but re-creations. In particular, the ones done wholly by the inker are always signed in a manner that makes it clear that the penciller did not work on the piece.

Still, the line is beginning to blur: When is original art not original art?

Since Kirby passed away, his two most prolific — and, to my mind, best — inkers of the last few decades, Mike Royer and Joe Sinnott, have both said they will not ink Kirby pencil art any longer. The supply of Jack Kirby pencil art is now finite, and both Mike and Joe feel that whatever still exists should be preserved, just as Jack drew it. So they will not ink actual pencils.

What they have done a few times is to trace the drawing, inking it on another piece of art board, so that Jack's original is untouched. The covers on John Morrow's excellent magazine *The Jack Kirby Collector* are usually done this way. A recent issue, for example, features a leftover Kirby drawing of Kamandi that Royer inked — but Mike did it as a tracing so as not to obliterate the pencil drawing.

The drawing that results is a piece of original art — but is it a Kirby/Royer drawing? Well, not exactly. Kirby never touched that piece of paper. If you think it is a Kirby/Royer drawing, then answer this question: What if Mike traced the same pencil drawing three times? Would he then have created three pieces of Kirby/Royer original art?

Well then, is it a Mike Royer drawing? No, Mike was doing essentially the same thing he was doing when he inked actual Kirby pencils — he just didn't do it on the same piece of paper. It would be fibbing to sign this drawing "Mike Royer" and not mention Kirby.

So is it a re-creation, like those covers Sprang and Sinnott have done? No, this drawing was never published before.

This is getting tougher. Is it a forgery then, like our old pal Shmidlap was hawking? No, there's no misrepresentation here.

So then, what is it? What do we call it? Danged if I know.

But there are a lot of drawings floating around the con this year that fall into this Twilight Zone category. At last year's Comic-Con International, several dealers and purchasers came up to me and asked me to authenticate, if applicable, drawings that purported to be inked versions of Kirby pencils. One guy paid a bundle for a drawing that, in my estimation, was pretty firmly in the Shmidlap category. The last time I saw him, he was racing angrily back to the dealer to demand a refund. Either he got it or some art merchant lost a few bicuspids.

This is a growing problem, mentioned to me by several who traffic in original art.

And do I have a solution for it? No, I don't. Just thought I'd mention it is all.

Mark Evanier can be reached at 363 S. Fairfax Ave., #303, Los Angeles, CA 90036 or in cyberspace at evanier@ix.netcom.com.

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For the love of comics: An interview with Joe Giella

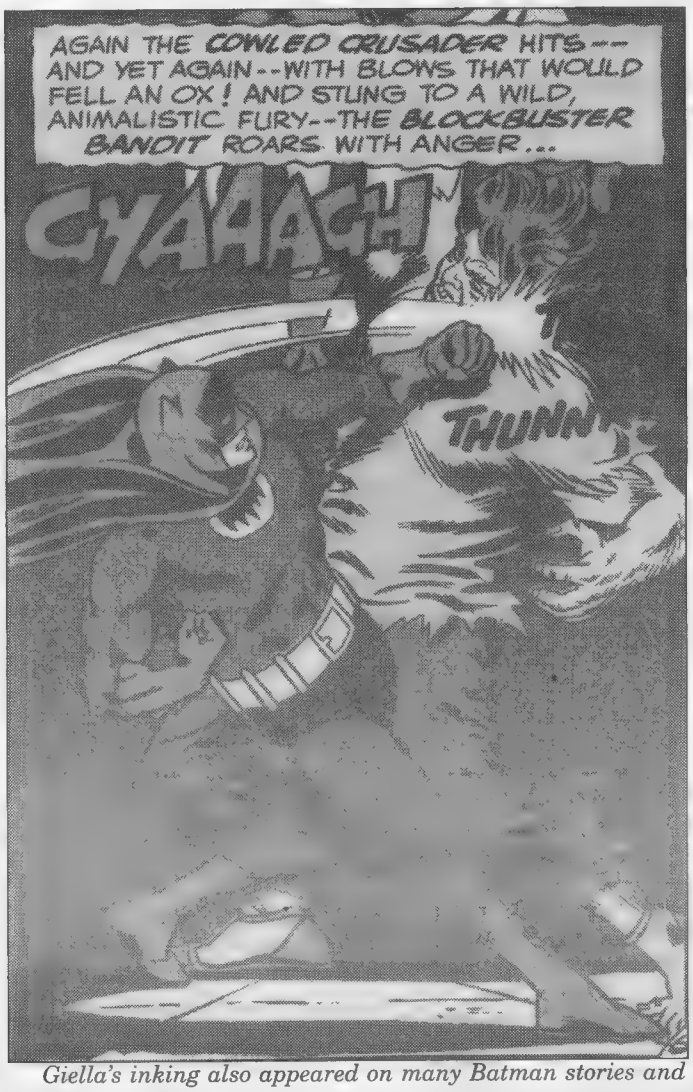
By James Cangialosi

When you speak with Joe Giella, it becomes apparent the passion this man has for comics. His career in the comics industry, whether in comic books or strips, has spanned decades. With each and every work Giella has done, you can see the love and care that went into making them. One of the amazing things about Giella's vast career is how much of his work went uncredited for so long. He was not allowed to put his name on the work he did for *Batman*. He did uncredited work on *The Phantom*. While he has said it did bother him that he couldn't sign his name to these appearances, he continued doing his job and doing it well for the love of his family and the industry.

"I started out as a penciller and an inker, but, for monetary reasons, artists like Frank Giacoia and myself decided to ink, instead."
— Joe Giella

There is a rare quality about Joe Giella. His work has such a sleek and detailed style — a style he developed over the years — that it cannot be mistaken. Some of the covers drawn by Carmine Infantino feature Giella's inking. On *Mary Worth*, Giella can now sign his name to each and every strip he produces about the character. He is quite proud of that fact. He has come a long way from the boy who started out drawing on grocery store bags. It seems that the emphasis in the comics industry usually falls on the writer and artist more than anyone else, but the inker plays an integral role, as well, in producing the final product. And the final product is what all comics fans are concerned about.

Giella inked some of Gil Kane's earliest ***Green Lantern*** *stories.*



Giella's inking also appeared on many Batman stories and covers.

Getting started

CBG: *What led you to a career in comics?*

Giella: While attending the School of Industrial Art, I had thought about entering the field of cartooning. I recall someone mentioned to me that you do best with something that you love. I decided to become a cartoonist, because I thought it would be an exciting field and I love the comics.

CBG: *Did you receive any formal training?*

Giella: *[Laughing]* You mean besides the paper bags and on school books? Not really. I was obsessed with drawing as an adolescent. This was obvious. I was constantly doodling during my junior-high classes. My teachers recommended that I attend the School of Industrial Art for high school.

I also attended classes at the Art Students League, along with Joe Kubert and Mike Sekowsky. In addition, I took a couple of commercial art classes at Hunter College. I must be honest and state that what really helped my training was working at home till 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning buried in anatomy and second-hand art books. We had a large family, and my family could not afford a formal education for me. The only way I was going to succeed was by teaching myself.

CBG: *Did you meet any fellow artists during this time who would also go on to have a career in comics?*

Giella: I met many artists and made many friends along the way. My closest friend was Frank Giacoia. He was a talented artist and a good friend. We lived in the same neighborhood and we worked together as artists at Timely Comics. In fact, I asked Frank to be my best man at my wedding.

CBG: *What did your parents think about your wanting to become an artist?*

Giella: My father was not too happy with my decision. He thought I should become a city worker: either a cop, fireman, or sanitation worker. I broke the family tradition by becoming an artist. Eventually, he realized how serious I was about art and he supported me.

CBG: *What comics artists besides the strip artists do you think inspired you in your work?*

Giella: Dan Barry. I loved the way Dan would design a panel. We worked together on comic books and the *Flash Gordon* comic strip. I often refer to my collection of *Flash Gordon* originals whenever I run into a problem drawing *Mary Worth*.

Another of my favorite artists was Stan Drake. He illustrated the *Heart of Juliet Jones* comic strip. Stan was a true master of his craft. I never met him, but Dan and I often admired and studied his work.

CBG: *What was your first professional comics job?*

Giella: My first professional comics job was with Hillman Periodicals. Ed Cronin was my editor. I pencilled and inked a feature called "Captain Codfish," which was showcased in *Punch and Judy* #10. This job assignment gave me a printed piece to include in my portfolio.

Spending time at Timely

CBG: *You mentioned that you worked at Timely Comics. What were Stan Lee and Jack Kirby like back then?*

Giella: They were very talented and I respected them both. Stan and I are still friends. In fact, we attended the first Superman movie together. I was pleased to be reunited with Stan again at the San Diego convention in 1996.

CBG: *Was that your first trip to the San Diego convention?*

Giella: Yes it was. They honored me for all the years in the comics business and for my present work on *Mary Worth*. The convention itself was mindboggling. I had no idea that there were so many fans. They were

warm and friendly to my family and me. I was shaking hands and signing autographs for three days!

CBG: *What did you work on while you were at Timely Comics?*

Giella: Stan put me in the bullpen. This was an area allocated for new artists. We would pencil, ink, letter, touch up, do corrections, *etc.* This was a terrific experience for me as a young artist. Captain America, Human Torch and Sub-Mariner were some of the features I worked on at Timely.

CBG: *How long did you remain with Timely?*

Giella: I worked on staff for approximately three years.

Not just an inker

CBG: *Are you primarily an inker?*

Giella: Not really. I started out as a penciller and an inker, but, for monetary reasons, artists like Frank Giacoia and myself decided to ink, instead. We could ink two or three pages daily, as opposed to pencilling one or two pages a day. Times were tough, and our parents were barely making ends meet. We really had to help out.

DC Comics assigned me many licensed jobs which I pencilled and inked. I penciled, inked, and colored many jobs for various agencies, as well. In addition I designed 21 T-shirts for Walt Disney, through Allison Manufacturing Co.

I designed, pencilled, inked and colored two super-hero books for Simon and Schuster. I also pencilled and inked the *Batman* comic strip for about four years. Drawing that strip was a joy, but, unfortunately, I was never allowed to sign my own name to it. Bob Kane's name had to be included on all the strips. This was one of the reasons I decided not to continue the strip.

CBG: *What goes into inking a comics story?*

Giella: In order to be a good inker, you have to know how to draw. If you don't, you will become a "line follower" and only duplicate the pencilling. This can be disastrous, if the original pencilling is bad and you are not able to correct it. A good inker should try to strengthen the weak areas and incorporate dramatic shadows and techniques, if needed. There is an awful lot of work involved in finishing a pencil job, and, let's face it, the finish is what is actually printed.

CBG: *Many pencillers find it difficult to ink their own work. Do you?*

Giella: That's true, because the main concentration of the penciller is on the pencils. Inking is an art in and of itself. You could spend a lifetime learning how to become an accomplished inker. It's similar to painting. Many painters can't draw, but, boy, can they paint!

Inking is a style that you develop over time and lots of experience. The goal of the inker is to lose as little of the pencillers' work as possible, because they would really chastise you if you lost too much of their work. [*Laughing*] The inker always gets the brunt of it, if a penciller isn't happy with the finished work.

CBG: *What was the pay rate for inkers when you first started?*

Giella: It varied, but I think it was around $12 a page. I inked about two pages a day. Some inkers did four, five, or more a day.

Deep in my heart, I was never in it for the money. Improving my drawing ability took first priority. An artist should do the best he can. You won't last long in this business, if you "rap" the work out. The ones who did were called "speed merchants," and they didn't last very long. I've always taught my boys and my students that it is better to take your time and do a good job. Speed will come with experience.

CBG: *Have any of your children followed your example and gone into the art field?*

Giella: I tried to guide my children to do whatever will make them happy, but they made their own decisions. I have three sons and a daughter. My first son, Joe, is in the computer business. He has won many awards and is the top salesman in the country this year. My second son, Dan, is an art director in Manhattan. My third son, Frank, teaches American history and art. He also assists me by coloring the *Mary Worth* Sunday page. My daughter is a district manager. My wife, Shirley, is a great cook and keeps us all together.

Sharp inking

CBG: *Many of your contemporaries say that you have a very sharp and detailed style in your inking. How would you characterize your work?*

Giella: I agree. I do have a strong, solid finishing style. This was brought about because the comic-book reproduction years ago left a lot to be desired. The production managers would constantly instruct us to strengthen the lines and keep the art strong and solid.

Today, due to advanced printing and computer technology, the reproduction is beautiful.

CBG: *You worked at DC for 40 years. Do you remember your first assignment?*

Giella: I worked on many of the DC characters. Batman, Flash, love stories, war stories, Superman, Aquaman, Green Lantern, Wonder Woman, *etc.* But I think Hopalong Cassidy may have been my first.

CBG: *How were assignments given out?*

Giella: Julie Schwartz was my primary editor. He would give out the assignments. If other editors needed help, I would pitch in from time to time — but, for most of my 40 years, I worked with Julie.

He and I got along very well together. In fact, we were and still are good friends. He was also a no-nonsense type of guy. He wanted the work delivered on time. The only deadline that I ever missed in 40 years was when my father passed away.

Forty years of Batman

CBG: *How long did you work on Batman in comic books?*

Giella: On and off for about 40 years. This includes comics pages, covers, and the *Batman* syndicated strip. Lately, between *Mary Worth* deadlines, I am trying to fulfill my list of requests for Batman drawings and posters.

CBG: *For many years you and Shelly Moldoff ghosted for Bob Kane. You inked Shelly's work for quite some time. How would you characterize his work?*

Giella: When Shelly took over Batman, he apparently had to imitate Bob Kane's style, and I think he did. I don't think Bob spent too much time working on Batman, so it was Shelly who carried it for many years. I've always appreciated Shelly's work, although the style is not my cup of tea. I've always preferred a more realistic style.

CBG: *Did it bother you that you and Shelly didn't get any credit for Batman?*

Giella: Not at the time. It did bother me when I was pencilling and inking the *Batman* syndicated strip. The feature appeared in more than 600 newspapers, and I was not allowed to sign the strip.

I can remember when Bob Kane used to appear on TV. He would draw Batman and some of the other characters on a large pad. The audience could not see that I had previously drawn Batman, The Joker, The Penguin, *etc.*, on the same pad with a light blue pencil. Then Bob proceeded to go over my drawings with a magic marker as if he was actually drawing them freehand. My kids would say "that's not fair," What could I do? It wasn't my strip, and Bob Kane *did* create Batman.

I also worked on the *Phantom* strip for 17 years and I never got any credit for that, either. Now I've been pencilling, inking, and lettering *Mary Worth* for more than six years and I'm getting credit for it.

CBG: *Who was your editor on the* ***Batman*** *syndicated strip?*

Giella: Mort Weisinger. He was very tough. In fact I quit twice because of him. He kept talking me into working for him again, but it reached a point when enough was enough. You would have to haggle with him over a few dollars. At one point I told him that I would recommend someone else to him who could handle the job. He got furious and told me I had to stay with the strip. He promised he would talk to someone and try to get me more money.

Covering Carmine

CBG: *When sales for* ***Batman*** *began to fall, Julie Schwartz brought Carmine Infantino in to give the character a new look. Were you still working on* ***Batman*** *during this time?*

Ever wonder who inked all those speed lines in ***The Flash****? Giella worked on several issues in the early 1960s.*

Later in his career, Giella worked on ***Weird War Tales****, including the two stories shown here.*

Giella: Yes I was, and bringing Carmine in was a good move. I did a lot of work with him on *Batman*. Recently, the original art for a cover that Carmine and I worked on brought $17,000 at an auction. Ironically, I never received a penny from that transaction and I don't know who owned the cover. Boy, this sure is a super-hero-oriented country.

CBG: *What would you say about Infantino's style?*

Giella: Carmine's main concern was layouts. Everything else was secondary. Carmine is a terrific layout man. His work is easy to read, because his layouts and design are quite good. He is a master of that type of storytelling.

We worked on quite a few stories featuring Batman, Flash, *etc*. Another artist I admired was Gil Kane. He is a terrific designer and layout man. I enjoyed working with both of them. It's amazing how many fans tell me that they love the work I did with Carmine and Gil.

CBG: *Did you ever ink Alex Toth's pencils?*

Giella: Yes, I did. Alex is an excellent artist. He has a very strong style. His style of storytelling is exciting. It was a pleasure to ink his work. Everything was all there: you didn't have to worry about pulling things together. His work really brought the industry to another level.

Difficult jobs

CBG: *Whose pencils were the most difficult to ink?*

Giella: Each artist's pencils presented some problems when inking, including my own. Mike Sekowsky's and Sheldon Moldoff's pencils were tough to ink. Mike's main concentration was on layouts, and Shelly's style was "campy." I preferred to work in a more realistic style. It bothered me when Mort Weisinger wanted me to ink the *Batman* strip in a camp style to simulate the *Batman* TV show.

CBG: *Did you ever work on Jack Kirby's pencils?*

Giella: Not really. You see, we both worked for different editors. I do remember helping Frank Giacoia ink a Kirby job. This job was assigned to Frank. I liked Jack and really admired his dynamic exciting style.

Collecting his work

CBG: *Did you save any of your original work?*

Giella: Yes. I have a large art collection. My son Frank is a collector. He has a huge collection of art by many artists. We have most of the pages I did since 1968.

Sadly, we only have a few of the *Batman* comic strips that I did in the '60s. When my wife was pregnant, our pediatrician asked me for a *Batman* original. I called the syndicate, and they sent me two of my *Batman* Sunday strips. I was going to give them both to our doctor, but my wife convinced me to keep one for my studio. Thanks to her, I have one Sunday strip.

I also gave away some of the *Batman* dailies to some fans. I wish I had them back. Somehow, the word got around that I would have liked to have them back. Would you believe that one fan was nice enough to return two *Batman* daily strips to me? I appreciated that gesture so much. Comics fans are the greatest. After drawing the *Batman* strip for almost four years it is nice to have a few originals. Years ago, originals were usually destroyed. Who knew how valuable they would become?

CBG: *Do you feel there are any under-rated artists?*

Giella: I think the majority of artists work very hard at their job. If you worked at DC and Marvel back then, you had to be pretty good. There was always a standard to getting into these companies. You had to do good work.

One artist I think was underrated was Freddy Ray. He pencilled and inked *Tomahawk* for DC. This man is an illustrator. He had a loose, exciting style. His inking was all brush work.

Another underrated artist was José Salinas. He was a master. He illustrated *The Cisco Kid*. Every panel was an illustration.

From super-heroes to 'Mary Worth'

CBG: *Did you retire from DC and move directly into comic strips?*

Giella: No, I went into the advertising business; I also started painting. This I loved, but I missed comics. When King Features called me to draw *Mary Worth*, I couldn't wait to start, and this time I was allowed to sign my name.

Mary Worth has been around since 1934 [as *Apple Mary*]. When I first began on the strip, I had to change my style a little, because I could not deviate too much from the previous style. This was very difficult for me. Little by little, I was able to bring my own style into the strip. John Saunders, the writer of *Mary Worth*, thought I wouldn't enjoy drawing the strip because I was used to comics characters flying off rooftops and crashing through windows. You know what? He was right.

It took a while before I got used to the different format. *Mary Worth* is a soap opera. Mary manages an apartment complex, and the stories focus on the residents. The stories are interesting and captivating. I try to create interest and excitement with the characters.

Mary Worth is still one of the most circulated adventure strips. It appears in more than 400 papers worldwide. I get more fan letters now requesting drawings and originals than I ever did in the comics. I am very proud to work on this strip and it feels good to sign my name.

CBG: *What's the difference between working on a comic book and a comic strip?*

Giella: They are similar but, because of the dimensional difference, you are not restricted to two or three panels, as with a syndicated strip. On a comics page, an artist can do much more with six or more panels. There are always deadlines, but with a syndicated strip you get fined if you don't deliver on time. You must be at least five weeks ahead on the dailies — and seven weeks ahead on the Sunday page.

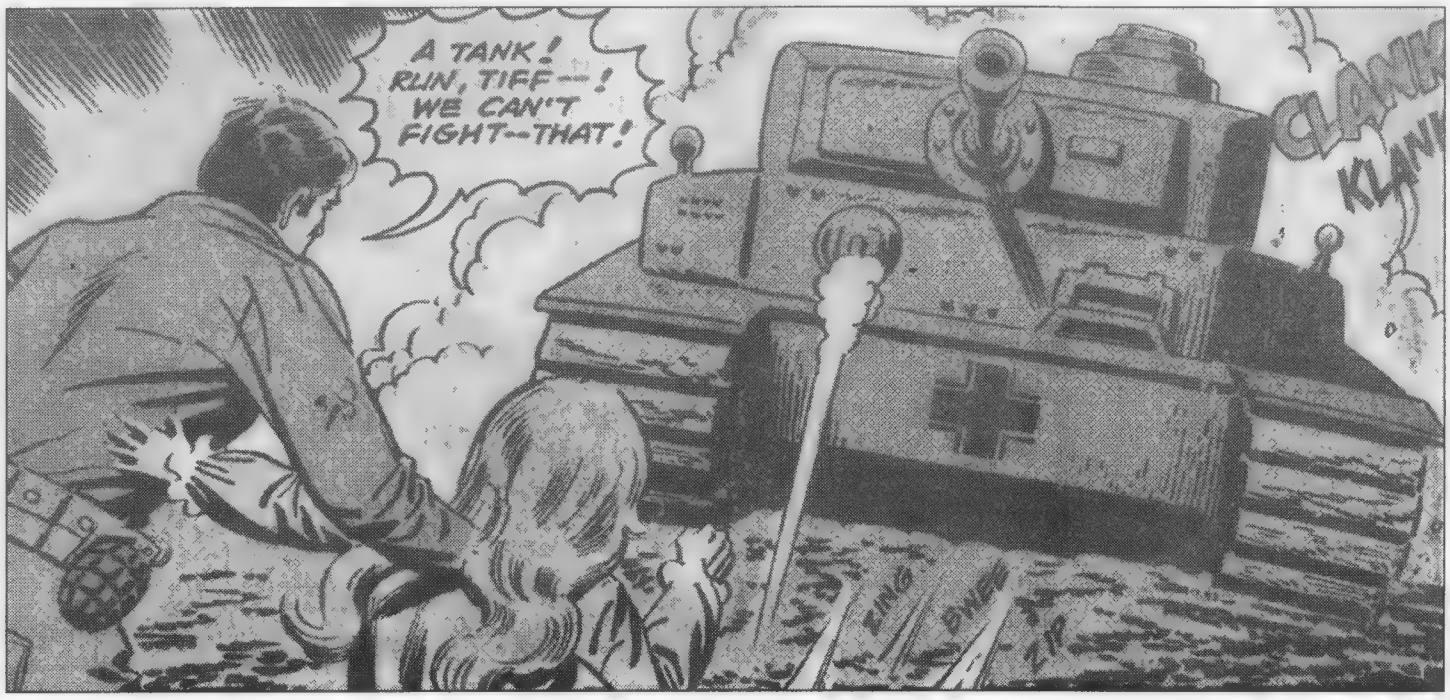
CBG: *Did you ever think that comics would reach the levels they have?*

Giella: No, I had absolutely no idea. I'm not really sure why it took off the way it did. It seems that fans really love the super-heroes. Probably the *Batman* TV series and Superman and Batman movies helped to bring the super-heroes into the spotlight on a grander level.

CBG: *Has working in comics been rewarding for you?*

Giella: It sure has. This is a very tough field, I love it, and I did my very best throughout my career. Dan Barry told me something that stuck with me my entire life: He said, "Joe Giella is like a fine wine. He gets better with age."

I hope he is right!



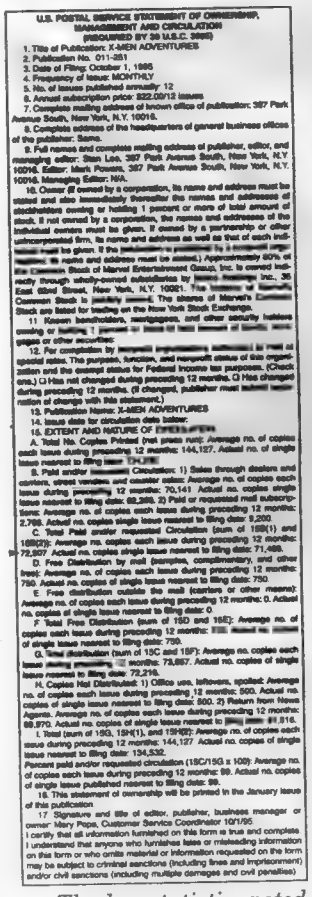
The Great *CBG* Circulation Scavenger Hunt — 1998 Update

Readers race to find them all by the turn of the century

Thanks!

Special thanks to the folks who provided data to us in our latest round of research: **Michael Agnelli**, Ashland, N.H.; **Mark Drummond**, Omaha, Neb.; **Randall A. Golden**, Indianapolis, Ind.; **Ronald Haar**, Honolulu, Hawaii; **Bill Helsel**, Cincinnati, Ohio; **George Kochel**, Laurel, Md.; **Dan Kocher**, St. Louis, Mo.; **Tony Kowalik**, Chicago, Ill.; **Scott Micheel**, Albuquerque, N.M.; **Tom Michael**, Scandinavia, Wis.; **Michael Pemberton**, Champaign, Ill.; **Roger Perez**, Miami, Fla.; **Bob Reed**, Commerce City, Colo.; **Steven Rowe**; **Steve Shaw**, Pekin, Ill.; **Preston Sweet**, Athens, Ga.; **Donald Whyte**, Buffalo, N.Y.; and **Bob Youhouse**, Port Vue, Pa.

Sorry if we've missed mentioning anyone — but be assured we do appreciate everyone's help!



U.S. POSTAL SERVICE STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION (REQUIRED BY 39 U.S.C. 3685)

1. Title of Publication: X-MEN ADVENTURES
2. Publication No. 011-251
3. Date of Filing: October 1, 1995
4. Frequency of Issue: MONTHLY
5. No. of Issues published annually: 12
6. Annual subscription price: $22.00/12 issues
7. Complete mailing address of known office of publication: 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016.
8. Complete address of the headquarters of general business offices of the publisher: Same.
9. Full names and complete mailing address of publisher, editor, and managing editor: Stan Lee, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016. Editor: Mark Powers, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016. Managing Editor: N/A.
10. Owner (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereafter the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address as well as that of each individual must be given. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, its name and address must be stated.): Approximately 60% of the Common Stock of Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. is owned indirectly through wholly-owned subsidiaries by Isaac Perlmutter Inc., 36 East 63rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10021. The balance of Marvel's Common Stock is publicly owned. The shares of Marvel's Common Stock are listed for trading on the New York Stock Exchange.
11. Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities: None.
12. For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at special rates. The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes. (Check one.) ☐ Has not changed during preceding 12 months. ☐ Has changed during preceding 12 months. (If changed, publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement.)
13. Publication Name: X-MEN ADVENTURES
14. Issue date for circulation data below: [illegible]
15. EXTENT AND NATURE OF CIRCULATION
A. Total No. Copies Printed (Net press run): Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 144,127. Actual no. of single issue nearest to filing date: [illegible]
B. Paid and/or Requested Circulation: 1) Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 70,141 Actual no. copies single issue nearest to filing date: 69,388. 2) Paid or requested mail subscriptions: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 2,788. Actual no. copies single issue nearest to filing date: 3,200
C. Total Paid and/or requested Circulation (sum of 15B(1) and 15B(2)): Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 72,927 Actual no. copies single issue nearest to filing date: 71,488.
D. Free Distribution by mail (samples, complimentary, and other free): Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 750. Actual no. copies of single issue nearest to filing date: 750
E. Free distribution outside the mail (carriers or other means): Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 0. Actual no. copies of single issue nearest to filing date: 0
F. Total Free Distribution (sum of 15D and 15E): Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: [illegible] Actual no. copies of single issue nearest to filing date: 750.
G. Total distribution (sum of 15C and 15F): Average no. copies each issue during preceding [illegible] months: 73,867. Actual no. copies of single issue nearest to filing date: 72,216.
H. Copies Not Distributed: 1) Office use, leftovers, spoiled: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 500. Actual no. copies of single issue nearest to filing date: 500. 2) Return from News Agents: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 99,970. Actual no. copies of single issue nearest to filing date: [illegible]1,916.
I. Total (sum of 15G, 15H(1), and 15H(2)): Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 144,127 Actual no. copies of single issue nearest to filing date: 134,532.
Percent paid and/or requested circulation (15C/15G x 100): Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 99. Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 99.
16. This statement of ownership will be printed in the January issue of this publication
17. Signature and title of editor, publisher, business manager or owner: Mary Pope, Customer Service Coordinator 10/1/95
I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including multiple damages and civil penalties).

The key statistic, noted in the above sample from ***X-Men Adventures****, is "Total paid and/or requested circulation (average number of copies during the past 12 months)."*

By John Jackson Miller
CBG Managing Editor

It's been a while — a *long* while — since our last update for the Great Circulation Scavenger Hunt (***CBG*** #1225, May 9, 1997). We've made some finds in the meantime thanks to our readers' help and would've updated sooner if not for various other projects getting in the way. We're entering a new phase of collection, however, so it's hoped we won't be away this long again.

The database: The job is nearly 60% complete. ***CBG*** readers discovered and sent in more than 200 circulation reports in 1997 and 1998, while eliminating more than 100 more title/years from consideration. Their contributions took the number of circulation statements in our database to 2,336. By extrapolating from the 330+ comics titles in which we have found circulation figures, we suspect there are 1,699 Statements of Ownership unaccounted for. Some of these potential Statements probably weren't printed at all. ***CBG*** readers have already helped us to pare the projected total down under 4,000, but since publishers keep publishing, the number of existing forms is up to 4,035 — as you'll see in the box at right, we expect to add 30 or so more figures in the 1998 column.

New data: Since we last updated readers, not only have 1997 forms all appeared but 1998 forms are appearing in Marvel comics. Everything we've collected from the past two years appears in the box at right. Marvel has gotten in the habit of jumping the gun on publishing its forms. The past three years, its forms have appeared in comics turning up in late August, when it isn't required to file its statements until October 31. This means all Marvel data from this period will apply to even less of its "current year" than normal, and more of the previous year.

Your mission: Since we're now in a phase more defined by finding which years and titles we can eliminate from consideration, we're trying a new tactic.

Instead of listing the entire batch of titles we're missing here (which we *will* do again, but it's still too long to do in one shot) — we're looking for volunteers we can give specific requests to. That is, we're looking for collectors who have **complete** runs of Archie, Charlton, Dell/Gold Key, and Harvey titles and of the more esoteric Marvel and DC titles (particularly humor, war, horror, and romance) from 1960 to 1980 to drop us a line and list the titles they've got and are willing to search. The titles need to have run for at least three consecutive years.

If you're willing to search specific titles for us, drop us a line at the address below or e-mail **crdialog@krause.com** with a list of the titles you have on hand or, for long runs within longer titles, the years you've got them for. Thereafter, we'll get back to you with the year we'd like you to check for us to confirm no Statement appeared. With luck, this'll save duplication of effort and will permit us to quickly eliminate titles and specific years that have eluded us.

Of course, if you run across the odd Statement in an old comic book (be advised we're about done with most of the DC and Marvel superhero titles), feel free to alert us to what you find according to the guidelines in the box below.

Send all correspondence to:

Comics Buyer's Guide
Circulation Scavenger Hunt
c/o John Jackson Miller
700 E. State St.
Iola, WI 54990

What we need: Ideally, we would like to have photocopies of all Statements of Ownership published in any and all comic books to date. Many fans have provided them and, by doing so, they have "closed out" the entry for that title for that year in our database, since the complete form includes all the subscription and other data we're accumulating.

We also accept transcripts summarizing key statistics. These are the most important:

- *"Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation."* We only want the first figure reported there, that for "Average number of copies of each issue during the preceding 12 months." We do not currently use the "closest to filing date" figure that follows due to reliability concerns.
- We also need the *issue number, publisher,* and *cover date* of the title you're reporting on.
- Other statistics we're collecting include "number of issues published annually"; "annual subscription price"; "(average) total number of copies printed (net press run)"; "(average) paid and/or requested mail subscriptions"; and "(average) copies not distributed (returns from news agents)."

These are titles in which 1998 Statements of Ownership have appeared:

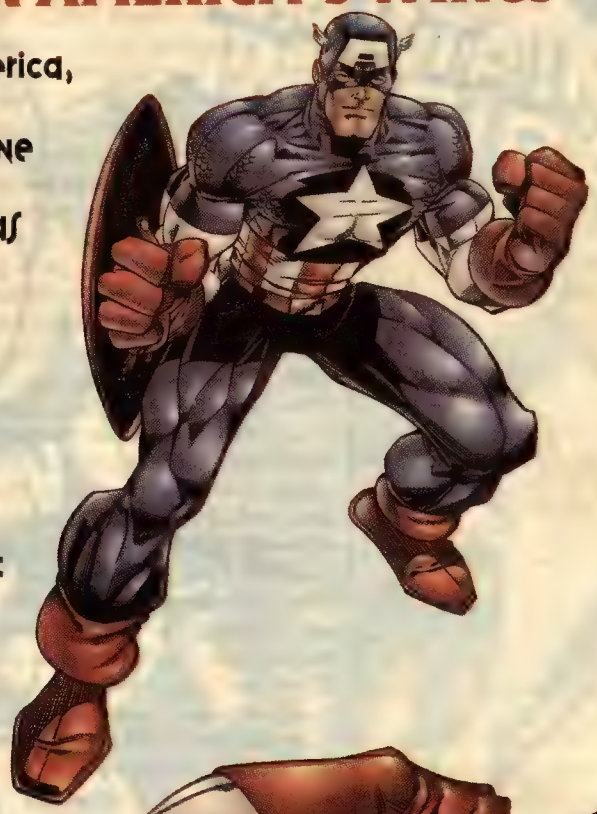
Title	Publisher	1997	1998	% Chg
X-Men	Marvel	303,708	222,183	-27%
Fantastic Four	Marvel	212,554	170,649	**+24%**
Captain America	Marvel	131,214	153,214	**+14%**
Iron Man	Marvel	184,386	151,476	-18%
Amazing Spider-Man	Marvel	159,950	119,547	-25%
Spider-Man	Marvel	140,059	108,050	-23%
Spectacular Spider-Man	Marvel	128,297	99,059	-23%
Sensational Spider-Man	Marvel	117,969	94,643	-20%
Incredible Hulk	Marvel	119,864	94,405	-22%
Cable	Marvel	133,041	94,050	-29%
Alpha Flight	Marvel		70,578	
Journey into Mystery/Thor	Marvel	59,297	69,437	+15%
Deadpool	Marvel	98,401	67,395	-32%
Heroes for Hire	Marvel		55,485	
Thunderbolts	Marvel	77,986	53,467	-31%

These are titles in which 1998 Statements of Ownership have not yet appeared, or will not due to cancellation:

Title	Publisher	1997
MAD	DC	309,660
Uncanny X-Men	Marvel	300,732
Wolverine	Marvel	251,738
Marvel Adventures	Marvel	203,756
Generation X	Marvel	171,606
Avengers	Marvel	166,046
X-Force	Marvel	155,261
X-Man	Marvel	148,203
X-Factor	Marvel	143,508
Betty & Veronica Double Digest	Archie	138,331
Excalibur	Marvel	112,177
Betty & Veronica Digest	Archie	109,186
Laugh Comics Digest	Archie	101,131
Jughead Double Digest	Archie	101,017
Jughead with Archie Digest	Archie	86,160
Ka-Zar	Marvel	74,082
Elektra	Marvel	70,671
Sonic the Hedgehog	Archie	70,574
What If?	Marvel	69,970
Silver Surfer	Marvel	60,068
Star Trek: Deep Space Nine	Marvel	57,266
Star Trek: Voyager	Marvel	56,689
Star Trek: Star Fleet Academy	Marvel	50,703
Daredevil	Marvel	50,256
Betty & Veronica	Archie	44,658
Star Trek: Early Voyages	Marvel	44,273
Archie	Archie	41,134
Uncle Scrooge	Gladstone	33,968
Donald Duck Adventures	Gladstone	33,272
Betty	Archie	32,595
Ghost Rider	Marvel	32,566
Uncle Scrooge Adventures	Gladstone	31,011
Donald Duck	Gladstone	29,333
Archie and Friends	Archie	28,324
Archie's Pal Jughead	Archie	26,493
Veronica	Archie	25,979
Tales from the Crypt	Gemstone	10,049
Vault of Horror	Gemstone	8,070
Weird Science	Gemstone	6,157
Haunt of Fear	Gemstone	6,122
Weird Fantasy	Gemstone	6,039
Panic	Gemstone	5,376
Two-Fisted Tales	Gemstone	5,326
Crime SuspenStories	Gemstone	5,243
Frontline Combat	Gemstone	5,124

THEY SAID IT WAS JUST A GAME...
BUT THAT WAS BEFORE I CLIPPED CAPTAIN AMERICA 'S WINGS

"it all began with captain america, standing there, set to attack. i knew that in the end, only one of us would be left standing. i decided it better be me. i was now set to attack as well..."



"i warned captain america who it was he was up against, who it was he was about to battle. he could ignore me... but not my warnings. he warned me as well... as if i didn't know who he was already. i created his shield, afterall."

"america attacked, shouting a maneuver i had never heard of before, probably something he learned from w.w.2. but i was far from defenseless. my response came cold, hard and fast to the sentinel of liberty"

"but this battle, for whatever reason, like all super hero battles, is fought on a scale larger than that of measured reality... and soon forces were changing even the nature of our clash. an attack from cap's shield might have ko'd someone else... but it hardly effected me. my "kick" would have ko'd an elephant, but its effect was very different on captain america. the battled continued..."

"the battle continued, back and forth, like a chess game of jabs and kicks until captain america lay at my feet."

"i was invincible... i was iron man."

THE HEROES ARE OURS
THE BATTLE IS YOURS

BATTLEBOOKS

UNLEASH
THE HERO WITHIN

Play the new game with all the action of a Marvel comic book!
A new series of 24-page slugfests that puts you, the player, in control.

MARVEL INTERACTIVE

HOW TO PLAY

OFFICIAL DIRECTIONS
(CLIP AND SAVE THIS SECTION AS A REFERENCE FOR DOING BATTLE)

THE SET-UP

1. You and a friend (of enemy) must choose a Battlebook character to play. Both of you must have a **Battlebook** and the appropriate **Maneuver Card** that goes with your chosen book.

2. Keep the **Maneuver Card** of your chosen character, and exchange **Battlebooks** with your opponent.

3. Your **Maneuver Card** represents your character and lists the options you have during the game. The **Battlebook** you now hold represents what your character sees in any given battle.

4. Turn to the page, titled **"Set To Attack!"**

THE BATTLE

5. Read the text box from the page you are on aloud to your opponent. This will inform him of any rules or restrictions that he needs to be aware of for this round of the fight.

6. From your **Maneuver Card**, choose your first maneuver and find the appropriate page number. Keep in mind any rules and restrictions you have. The page number will be indicated in the column labeled with a **"P"**.
Your opponent should do the same.

7. Turn to that page, using the numbers at the bottom of the **Battlebook**. Your opponent should do the same.

8. Tell your opponent what your chosen maneuver was and what page you are on. Your opponent should do the same.

9. Using the **Matrix** at the bottom of the page, find your opponent's page number and follow the arrow to determine which page you should now turn to. Your opponent should do the same.

10. Turn to the page, using the numbers at the top of the Battlebook to see the result of that round of combat. Your opponent should do the same.

AFTERMATH

11. If you are on a "score" page, then check your **Maneuver Card** to determine the modifier of your chosen maneuver. The modifier will be indicated next to your chosen maneuver, in the column labeled with an **"M"**.

12. Add the value of the **Modifier** to the value of the score to determine the damage.

13. Inform your opponent of the damage so that he may subtract it from his character's body points. **Body Points** are indicated on your **Maneuver Card**.

14. Your opponent should do the same, if he is also on a "score" page.

15. If either character is reduced to 0 **Body Points** or less, then the character is KO'd. The first person to KO their opponent wins the game.

16. If neither character has been KO'd then go back to step 5 and repeat.

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FANZINES

Barsoo Min: 1, 4, 6-10, 12, 13, 15, 14
J. Allen St. John Folio
Fantastic Worlds of Erb 32/33
Phatnasy 2
Xerox BB 15, 13
Burroughs Bulletin (old series) 16, 34, 21, 12, 4
Fantastic Worlds of Burroughs & Kline 2
Oldwar 1
Erbania 74, 66, 71, 69/70, 67, 62, 63, 64, 65, 67, 68, 60, 57, 56, 59
Normal Bean News 2, 1
The Collector 27
Press release, Tarzan, the Epic Adventure
Pucks Corner 5
Erb Dateline 52
Barsoomian Newsletter 1
Gridley Wave 2-25, 27-37, 40-46, 68, 69, 70, 71, 76, 83, 85
Unofficial Dum-Dum
Barsoomian Times 2-8
Burroughs Newskert 10

ORIGINAL TARZAN DAILY STRIPS:

Tarzan & the Golden Lion (Maxon) 93
Tarzan of the Apes (Foster) 58
The Beasts of Tarzan (Maxon) 82
The Lost Empire 82
The Son of Tarzan 95
Tarzan & the Jewells of Opar 84
The Return of Tarzan 61

MORE FANZINES

Captain George Whizbang: 1, 2, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 27
Comic Effect 4
The Illustrated Roger Zelazny
Third Rail
Burrough Bulletin with Bill Juhre on cover
Comic Art & Graffix Gallery 7
Comics Revue: 33, 34, 35, 36, 47, 70, 72, 74, 75, 76, 78, 79, 84, 64, 44, 43, 42, 41, 40, 62, 38, 61, 55, 53, 54, 60, 71, 73, 45, 46, 48, 49, 50, 29, 27, 63, 66, 65, 67, 68, 69, 37, 52, 59, 58, 57, 56, 51, 31, 32, 88, 28 & Comic Revue Annual 2
Once Upon a Saga II
Zor 1
Radical Dreamer 0-4 (two sets)
2 Lithos of Batman prints by Bob Kane
Menomonee Falls Gazette: 4-161, 168-177
Fantasy & Science-Fiction Digest - 11 issues
Science Fiction Age Magazine - 21 issues
Tarzan Leading Men IV video with box

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Tom & Jerry Winter Carnival 1 VG
Woody Woodpecker Back to School 2 VG+/F, 4 VG+, 4 FN+, 6 VG+
Woody Woodpecker County Fair 5 FN+
Tom & Jerry Picnic Time 1 VG
Tom & Jerry Back to School 1 F-VF, 1 VF
Bugs Bunny Vacation Funnies 1 VG, 1 VG, 1 FN
Bugs Bunny Christmas Funnies 1 G+, 1 FN, 4 VF, 4 FN, 5 VF, 6 F-VF, 3 VF, 3 VF, 6 VF, 6 Vg+, 7 F, 8 F+/VF, 2 F

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Tom & Jerry Summer Fun 3 VG+, 4 VG+/F, 3 VG+, 2 VF
Bugs Bunny Trick N Treat 3 VF, 4 VF, 4 VG+
Zane Grey 37 VF, 31 NM, 30 VG, 35 VG+, 27 F, 36 F, 15 VF, 433 F+/VF, 632 F, 467 NM, 346 VG, 449 VF/NM, 412 F+/VF, 357 F+, 511 F+, 39 VG+/F, 314 VG, 346 VG, 333 VG+/F, 230 VG+, 197 F
Luke Short 651 VF+/NM, 739 CC OW F, 875 VG, 807 F, 927 F
Lone Ranger 108 F+/VF, 84 VF+, 20 VG+, 67 VG+, 72 F+, 60 F+, 71 VG, 33 VG, 106 VF+, 71 CC OW VF, 135 VG+, 50 CC OW F+, 40 CC NM
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Johnny Mack Brown 7 VG
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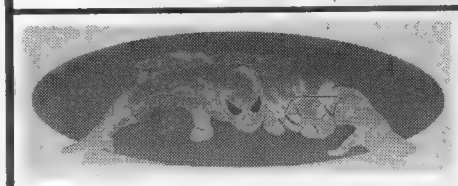

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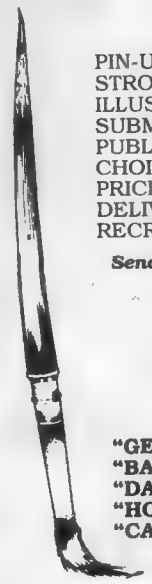

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CALIFORNIA

Oct 10 CA, Lodi-Stockton. Grape Festival & Harvest, Fairgrounds, Burgandy Hall. 413 E. Lockeford St., SH: 10am-4pm, T: 25, F: $37.50 for 1, $60. for 2, A: $1., under 5 free. Chris Ryan, 422 Cedar St., Lodi, CA 95240. PH: 209-368-7345.

Oct 11 CA, Los Angeles. Comic Book & Science Fiction Convention, Shrine Auditorium Expo Ctr. 700 W. 32nd St., SH: 10am-5pm, A: $5. Bruce Schwartz, 2319-A West Olive Ave., Burbank, CA 91506. PH: 818-954-8432.

Oct 17-18 CA, Oakland. Super-Con Comic Book & Fantasy. 10th & Broadway, SH: Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 11am-5pm, T: 100, A: $7.50 in advance, $9. at the door. Super-Con, PO Box 215392, Sacramento, CA 95821. PH: 916-485-1887.

Oct 25 CA, San Francisco. Comic Book & Collectibles Show, Cathedral Hill Hotel. 1101 Van Ness Ave. at Geary Blvd., SH: 10am-4pm, T: 50, F: $50., A: $2. Al Jang or Damon Jang, 3145 Geary Blvd. #270, San Francisco, CA 94118. PH: 415-386-9036.

Nov 7 CA, Lodi-Stockton. Grape Festival & Harvest, Fairgrounds, Burgandy Hall. 413 E. Lockeford St., SH: 10am-4pm, T: 25, F: $37.50 for 1, $60. for 2, A: $1., under 5 free. Chris Ryan, 422 Cedar St., Lodi, CA 95240. PH: 209-368-7345.

CONNECTICUT

Oct 11 CT, West Haven. Comic Book & BB Card Mania, K of C Hall. 263 Center St., (Northbound) Exit 44 off I-95 or (Southbound) Exit 43 off I-95, SH: 9:30am-3:30pm, T: 50, F: $50. for 1, $90. for 2, $135. for 3, A: free. Mrs. Aurella V. Wacks, PO Box 5078, Milford, CT 06460. PH: 203-874-3545 or FAX: 203-876-8427.

Oct 16 CT, Stratford. CT's Premier Comic Book & Sports Card Show, Ramada Inn. Exit 30 off I-95, SH: 6pm-9:30pm, T: 20-8', F: $40., A: free. Mike Riccio, 155 Lighthouse Ave., Stratford, CT 06497. PH: 203-377-9567.

Oct 18 CT, Vernon. Comic Books, Sports Card & Toys Show, Quality Inn (The Colony). 51 Hartford Tpke., Rt. 83, SH: 9am-3pm, T: 42-6' & 8', F: $30.-$35., A: $.99, under 10 free. Joe Cushman, 101 S. Eagleville Rd., Storrs, CT 06268. PH: 860-429-3760.

Oct 25 CT, East Hartford. Comic Book Convention, Elks Hall. 148 Roberts St. (Exit 58 off of I-84), SH: 11am-5pm, T: 32, F: $40., A: $.99. The Bookie, Hal Kinney, 206 Burnside Ave., E. Hartford, CT 06108. PH: 860-289-1208 afternoons.

Oct 25 CT, Milford. Comic Book, BB Card & Beanie Baby Mania, Saint Gabriels School. Tudor Rd., Exit 34 off I-95 take R., SH: 9:30am-3:30pm, T: 50, F: $50. for 1, $90. for 2, $125. for 3, A: freeMrs. Aurella V. Wacks, PO Box 5078, Milford, CT 06460. PH: 203-874-3545 or FAX: 203-876-8427.

Oct 31 CT, Meriden. Comic Book & Sports Card Show, Masonic Temple. 112 E. Main St., SH: 9:30am-3pm, T: 30-6', F: $30., A: $.99. Ernie Schaper, 10 McKenzie Ave., S. Meriden, CT 06451. PH: 203-634-0069.

Nov 1 CT, Stratford. CT's Premier Comic Book & Sports Card Show, Ramada Inn. Exit 30 off I-95, SH: 9:30am-3:30pm, T: 60-8', F: $75. for 1, $125. for 2, A: $3., 99¢ children. Mike Riccio, 155 Lighthouse Ave., Stratford, CT 06497. PH: 203-377-9567.

Nov 1 CT, East Hartford. Comic Book, Toy & Collectibles Show, Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Club. Exit 58 I-84, Roberts St. & Silver Ln., SH: 9am-3pm, T: 100, A: 99¢. Natale Terranova, PH: 860-519-8355.

FLORIDA

Oct 10 FL, Ft. Lauderdale. Comic Book, Sports Card, Beanie Babies & Memorabilia Show, Coral Ridge Mall. 3200 N. Federal Hwy., SH: 10am-6pm, T: 8', F: $75., A: free. Ron Tannebaum, PH: 954-916-3834.

Oct 16-18 FL, Lakeland. Collectorama Show, Lakeland Center. 700 W. Lemon, SH: Fri. & Sat. 10am-7pm, Sun. 10am-4pm, T: 250-8', A: $3. Edward Kuszmar, PO Box 4049, Boca Raton, FL 33429. PH:-800-447-4590, 561-995-7984 or FAX: 561-995-7983.

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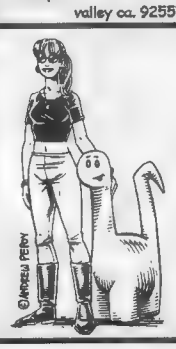

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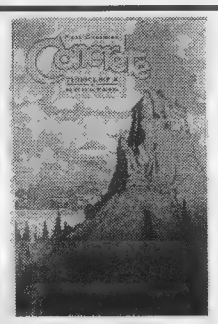

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EVENTS
(From Page 67)

Oct 16-18 FL, Pompano Beach. Comic Book, Sports Card, NASCAR, Beanie Babies & Memorabilia Show, Pompano Square Mall. Corner of Federal Hwy. & Copans Rd., SH: Fri. & Sat. 10am-9pm, Sun. 11am-6pm, T: 8', F: $125., A: free. Ron Tannebaum, PH: 954-916-3834.

Oct 24-25 FL, Coral Springs. Comic Book, Sports Card, Beanie Babies & Memorabilia Show, Coral Square Mall. Corner of Univ. Dr. & Atlantic Blvd., SH: Sat. 10am-9pm, Sun. 11am-6pm, T: 8', F: $125., A: free. Ron Tannebaum, PH: 954-916-3834.

Oct 31-Nov 1 FL, Orlando. Halloween Comic Book & Toy Show, Holiday Universal Studios. 59055 Kirkman Rd., SH: 10am-5pm, T: 100-8'. George Smith, PO Box 560423, Montverde, FL 34756. PH: 407-469-3759.

Oct 31-Nov 1 FL, Orlando. CollectiCon Show, Omni Rosen Hotel. 9840 International Dr., SH: Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 10am-5pm, T: 75. Ron or Annie, 3237 Harper's Ferry Ct., Orlando, FL 32837. PH: 407-812-1513 or 441-6699.

Nov 7-8 FL, Orlando. Antique & Collectible Toy Super Show, Bahia Shrine Auditorium. 2300 Pembrook Dr., SH: Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 10am-4pm, T: 200-8', A: $6. Mark Leinberger, PH: 561-694-7982 or Jon Jacobus, PH: 954-772-1420.

GEORGIA

Oct 10-11 GA, Kennesaw. All Stars Comic Book, Sports Cards & Collectibles Show, Kinder's Outlet Mall. 3333 George Busbee Pky., I-75 & Chastain Rd. (Exit 117), SH: Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 11am-5pm, T: 50-8', F: $80., A: free. Jon White, 201 Thornwood Cr., Acworth, GA 30102. PH: 770-924-3491 home or 428-4980 Show Center.

Oct 24-25 GA, Kennesaw. All Stars Comic Book, Sports Cards & Collectibles Show, Kinder's Outlet Mall. 3333 George Busbee Pky., I-75 & Chastain Rd. (Exit 117), SH: Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 11am-5pm, T: 50-8', F: $80., A: free. Jon White, 201 Thornwood Cr., Acworth, GA 30102. PH: 770-924-3491 home or 428-4980 Show Center.

Oct 25 GA, Marietta. Comic Book Show, Wyndham Garden Hotel. Atlanta North, I-75, N. at Exit 112, Hwy. 120 South Loop, SH: 10am-5pm, T: 6', F: $40., A: $3. KEBco, Inc., Comic & Toy Emporium, PH: 770-471-6970.

Nov 7-8 GA, Kennesaw. All Stars Comic Book, Sports Cards & Collectibles Show, Kinder's Outlet Mall. 3333 George Busbee Pky., I-75 & Chastain Rd. (Exit 117), SH: Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 11am-5pm, T: 50-8', F: $80., A: free. Jon White, 201 Thornwood Cr., Acworth, GA 30102. PH: 770-924-3491 home or 428-4980 Show Center.

ILLINOIS

Oct 10 IL, Orland Park. Comic Book, Sports Card, Beanies & Toy Show, Civic Ctr. 1 blk. W. of LaGrange Rd. (Rt. 45) at 147th St., SH: 9am-3pm, T: 85-6', F: $30., A: $1. John Leary, 9522 W. Shore Dr., Oak Lawn, IL 60453. PH: 708-423-1758.

Oct 11 IL, Springfield. ComicCon, Jaycee Activity Centre. 2525 S. 12th St., near the Bunn Park Gold Course, SH: 10am-4pm, T: 18, F: $25. for 1, $45. for 2, A: free. Alan Morton, PH: 309-657-1599 or Kevin, PH: 217-435-9625.

Oct 18 IL, Bridgeview. Comic Book & Toy Show, Oremus Ctr. 79th & Oketo (2 blks. W. of Harlem Ave.), SH: 9am-3pm, T: 8', F: $25., A: $1. Mike, PH: 708-788-7276 or Jim, PH: 815-886-8925.

Oct 25 IL, Orland Park. Comic Book, Sports Card, Beanies & Toy Show, Civic Ctr. 1 blk. W. of LaGrange Rd. (Rt. 45) at 147th St., SH: 9am-3pm, T: 85-6', F: $30., A: $1. John Leary, 9522 W. Shore Dr., Oak Lawn, IL 60453. PH: 708-423-1758.

Oct 25 IL, Naperville. Comic Book & Action Figure Show, Radisson Hotel. Jct. Naper & Warrenville Rds. (just off I-88), SH: 10am-3pm, T: 8', F: $45., A: $2. Graham Crackers Comics, Jamie Graham, 1271 Rickert Dr., Naperville, IL 60540. PH: 630-355-4310.

Nov 1 IL, Oak Lawn. Comic Book, Sports Card, Beanies & Toy Show, Fatima K of C. 5830 W. 95th St., SH: 9am-3pm, T: 40-8', F: $25., A: $1. John Leary, 9522 W. Shore Dr., Oak Lawn, IL 60453. PH: 708-423-1758.

INDIANA

Oct 9-11 IN, Evansville. Comic Book, Sports Cards, NASCAR, Coins, Toys & Stamps Show, Eastland Mall. SH: mall hrs., T: 85, F: $125.-$135. Bases Loaded Promos., Inc., 295 Bryan Rd., McMinnville, TN 37110. PH: 931-939-3063 or 506-2300.

Oct 10 IN, South Bend. Michiana Comicon, Holy Family Hall. Mayflower at Western, SH: 10am-5pm, T: 50, F: $40., A: $1. Jim Rossow, 53100 Poppy Rd., South Bend, IN 46628. PH: 219-232-8129.

Oct 10 IN, Columbus. Comic Book, Sports Cards & Collectibles Show, Fair Oaks Mall. Intersection of US Hwy. 31 & Hwy. 46, SH: mall hrs., T: 55-8', F: $50. for 1, $85. for 2, $120. for 3; A: free.

If a state is not listed in this issue's calendar, it is because we received no show listings for that state for this time period.

If you are planning to attend a show some distance from your home, we advise you to call the show's promoter for any last-minute changes and information.

Front Row Promos., Inc., Terry Armstrong, 1745 Houston Ct., New Albany, IN 47150. PH: 812-948-9902.

Oct 10-11 IN, Merrillville. Comic Book, Autograph & Collectible Show, Century Mall. US 30 & Broadway, SH: mall hrs., T: 100, F: $80., A: free. John Goff, PH: 219-942-4105.

Oct 10-11 IN, South Bend. Multi Collectible Hobby Show, Scottsdale Mall. 1390 E. Ireland Rd., SH: Sat. 10am-9pm, Sun. 11am-5pm, T: 60. Gene Haberstich, PO Box 908, Goshen, IN 46527. PH: 219-533-1887.

Oct 11 IN, Indianapolis. Comic Book, Sports, Non-Sports, Die Cast Racing Cars & Collectibles Show, Holiday Inn East. 6990 E. 21st St., SH: 9am-4pm, T: 45, F: $30. for 1, $45. for 2, A: free. Mark Lopez, PH: 317-894-1115.

Oct 17-18 IN, Merrillville. Multi-Hobby Collectibles Show, Century Consumer Mall. US 30 at Broadway, SH: Sat. 10am-9pm, Sun. 11am-5pm, T: 60-80. Gene F. Haberstich, PO Box 908, Goshen, IN 46527. PH: 219-533-1887.

Oct 23 IN, Highland. Comic Book & Sports Card Show, Lincoln Center. 2450 Lincoln St., from I-94 S. on Indianapolis Blvd., 4th traffic light turn L., SH: 6pm-9:30pm, T: 16-6', F: $15. for 2, A: free. Beth Gagliardi, 2450 Lincoln St., Highland, IN 46322. PH: 219-838-0114 8am-10pm.

Oct 24-25 IN, South Bend. Michiana Regional Multi-Hobby Collectibles Trade Show, Brentwood Center. 1 mi. E. of Airport on US 20, 3900 Lincolnway West, SH: Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 11am-5pm, T: 100. Gene F. Haberstich, PO Box 908, Goshen, IN 46527. PH: 219-533-1887.

Oct 25 IN, Indianapolis. Comic Book, Sports, Non-Sports, Die Cast Racing Cars & Collectibles Show, Holiday Inn East. 6990 E. 21st St., SH: 9am-4pm, T: 45, F: $30. for 1, $45. for 2, A: free. Mark Lopez, PH: 317-894-1115.

Oct 25 IN, Indianapolis. Comic Book Show, Quality Inn East. 3525 N. Shadeland Ave., Exit off I-70 or I-465, SH: 10am-4pm, T: 6', F: $40. for 1, $35. ea. for 2 or more, A: $2., 12 & under free. Brian Livingston, 8702 Monsanto Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45231. PH: 513-522-1231.

Oct 31-Nov 1 IN, Hammond. Multi-Collectible Hobby Show, Woodmar Mall. Indianapolis Blvd. at 165th St., SH: Sat. 10am-5:30pm, Sun. 11am-5pm, T: 62. Gene Haberstich, PO Box 908, Goshen, IN 46527. PH: 219-533-1887.

Nov 7-8 IN, South Bend. Multi-Hobby Collectibles Show, Brentwood Center, Hall A. 3900 Lincolnway W. (US 20), 1 mi. E. of Airport, SH: Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 11am-5pm, T: 25-35, A: free. Gene F. Haberstich, PO Box 908, Goshen, IN 46527. PH: 219-533-1887 10am-midnight.

IOWA

Oct 24-25 IA, Ames. Comic Books & Sports Card Show, North Grand Mall. 2801 Grand Ave., SH: Sat. 10am-9pm, Sun. 12noon-5pm, T: 40-8', F: $50., A: free. Scott or Jo Helgeson, 1000 E. Salem, Indianola, IA 50125. PH: 515-961-8286.

Nov 7-8 IA, Marshalltown. Comic Book & Sports Card Show, Center Mall. 2500 S. Center St., SH: Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 12noon-5pm, T: 30-8', F: $35., A: free. Scott or Jo Helgeson, 1000 E. Salem, Indianola, IA 50125. PH: 515-961-8286.

KANSAS

Oct 24-25 KS, Kansas City. Comic Con, Reardon Civic Ctr. 500 Minnesota Ave., SH: Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 10am-4pm, T: 110, F: $125., A: Sat. $5., Sun. $4. Mike Wileman, 8700 W. 121st Terr., Overland Park, KS 66213. PH: 913-451-4805.

KENTUCKY

Oct 9-11 KY, Ashland. Comic Book, Sports Card & Racing Collectibles Show, Town Center. 500 Winchester Ave., SH: mall hrs., T: 35-8', F: $80. for 1, $150. for 2, A: free. Badgley Promotions, PO Box 3528, Parkersburg, WV 26103. PH: 304-485-8345.

Oct 18 KY, Ft. Mitchel. Comic Book Show, Drawbridge Estate. On Buttermilk Pike, I-75, Exit 186, SH: 10am-4pm, T: 6', F: $40. for 1, $35. ea. for 2 or more, A: $2., 12 & under free. Brian Livingston, 8702 Monsanto Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45231. PH: 513-522-1231.

Oct 23-25 KY, Louisville. Comic Book, Sports Cards & Collectibles Show, Green Tree Mall. I-65, Exit 4, SH: mall hrs., T: 60-8', F: $75. for 1, $145. for 2, $210. for 3, A: free. Front Row Promos., Inc., Terry Armstrong, 1745 Houston Ct., New Albany, IN 47150. PH: 812-948-9902.

LOUISIANA

Nov 1 LA, Bossier City. Comic Book-N-Toy Fest, Horseshoe Le-Bossier Hotel. I-20 at 4000 Industrial Dr., SH: 10am-4pm. PH: 903-675-4670.

MARYLAND

Oct 10 MD, Baltimore. Greater Baltimore Collectors Mart XXVI, Pikesville Armory. 610 Reisterstown Rd., (I-695, Exit 20), SH: 10am-5pm, T: 200, A: $3. Annapolis Marketing, Inc., 6506 Pyle Rd., Bethesda, MD 20817. PH/FAX: 301-320-6974.

Oct 31 MD, Baltimore. Comic Book & Non-Sports Card Show, Days Hotel. I-83, Exit 17, Timonium, SH: 10am-3pm, F: $50. Jubilee Enterprises, 11910 Asbury Dr., Ft. Washington, MD 20744. PH: 301-292-4587 or FAX: 301-203-0159.

Nov 6-8 MD, Baltimore. Comic Book, BB Card & Beanie Baby Show. Security Square Mall, 695 Exit 17 Security Blvd. SH: mall hrs., T: 50-8', F: $110. Jay Grabowski, 3507 Lord Baltimore Way, Monkton, MD 21111. PH/FAX: 410-557-0660.

MASSACHUSETTS

Oct 25 MA, Boston. Comic Book & Toy Spectacular, Radisson Hotel. Formerly Howard Johnson 57, 200 Stuart St., SH: 10am-4pm, T: 120-8', F: $85., A: $5. Primate Promos., PH: 978-388-6576.

Nov 1 MA, Dedham. Great Boston Fall Antique & Collectible Toy Show, Holiday Inn. Rt. 1 at Exit 15A off Rt. 95 & 128, SH: 9:30am-3pm, A: $4.50 ($3.50 from Noon-3pm), 12 & under free with adult. Mrs. Devlin, PH: 508-379-9733.

MICHIGAN

Oct 10-11 MI, Dearborn. Fall Comic Book Extravaganza, Civic Ctr. 15801 Michigan Ave. at Greenfield Rd., SH: Sat. 11am-7pm, Sun. 11am-5pm, Motor City Conventions, Michael Goldman, 19785 W. 12 Mile Rd. Ste. 231, Southfield, MI 48076. PH: 810-426-8059.

Nov 1 MI, Livonia. X-Trava Con Comic Book & Toy Show, K of C Hall. 19801 Farmington Rd. (bet. 7 Mile & 8 Mile Rd.), SH: 10am-4pm, T: 55-8', F: $35. in advance, $40. day of show, A: $2. Motor City Conventions, Michael Goldman, 19785 W. 12 Mile Rd., Ste. 231, Southfield, MI 48076. PH: 248-426-8059.

Nov 1 MI, Saginaw. Comic Book, Sports Card, Beanie Babies & Memorabilia Show, St. Vincent Home. 925 N. River, SH: 9:30am-5pm, T: 30-8', F: $20., A: free. Rick Doud, PH: 517-781-0490 ext 363 or 684-2684.

MINNESOTA

Oct 10-11 MN, Duluth. Comic Book, Toys & Sports Card Show #25, Entertainment Convention Ctr. 350 Harbor Dr., SH: Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 11am-4:30pm, T: 50, F: $45. for 1, $40. ea. for 2 or more. Kevin Bergson, PH: 701-235-2562 during reg. bus. hours.

Oct 24-25 MN, Duluth. " Collector's Expo" , Miller Hill Mall. 1600 Miller Trunk Hwy., SH: Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 12noon-6pm, T: 45-8', F: $80., A: free. Timothy Broman, 1600 Miller Trunk Hwy. #112, Duluth, MN 55811. PH: 218-726-1360.

MISSOURI

Oct 11 MO, St. Louis. Spector Comic Book Show, Kolping House. 4035 Keokuk St., SH: 11am-3:30pm, T: 70, F: $25., A: $1.50. Anthony Gladish, 4253 Fatima Dr. #3, St. Louis, MO 63123. PH: 314-544-2812.

NEW JERSEY

Oct 10-11 NJ, S. Plainfield. World of Comics & Cards Conventions, Middlesex Mall. Hadley & Stelton Rds., SH: Sat. 10am-9:30pm, Sun. 11am-5pm, T: 85-8', F: Sat. $100., Sun. $65. for 1 day, $150. for 2 days, A: free. Anthony Grimando, PO Box 23, Dunellen, NJ 08812. PH/FAX: 732-968-3886.

Oct 11 NJ, Elmwood Park. Comic Book, Sports Card & Collectibles Show, American Legion Post #147. Legion Pl. (1 blk. W. of Midland Ave. off Market St.), SH: 9:30am-3:30pm, T: 50-6', F: $30. for 1, $55. for 2, A: $1., under 7 free. Gary Sipos, 1 Garden Ct. N., Garfield, NJ 07026. PH: 973-340-2218 or 201-796-9717 day of show.

Oct 11 NJ, Clifton. Comic Book Expo, Community Recreation Ctr. 1232 Main Ave. (Rt. 46 to Piaget Ave. to Main Ave.), SH: 10am-4pm, T: 30-6', F: $45., A: free. J. Paul, 10 Cross St., Montclair, NJ 07042. PH: 973-783-0608.

Oct 16-18 NJ, Freehold. Triple Play Comic Book, Sports Card, Memorabilia & Collectible Toy Show, Raceway Mall. 3710 Rt. 9, SH: mall hrs., T: 100-8', F: $185. for 1, $350. for 2, $490. for 3, A: free. Ferdinand Parascandolo, 482 Retford Ave., SI, NY 10306. PH: 718-667-9588 or 967-9172.

Oct 18 NJ, Garfield. Comic Book, Sports Card & Collectibles Show, Boys & Girls Club. 490 Midland Ave., SH: 9:30am-3:30pm, T: 60-8', F: $35. for 1, $65. for 2, A: $1., under 7 free. Gary Sipos, 1 Garden Ct. N., Garfield, NJ 07026. PH: 973-340-2218 or 478-7662 day of show.

Oct 24-25 NJ, Ocean Township. Comic Book, Sports Card, Non-Sports Card, Toy & Collectible Show, Seaview Square Mall. Rts. 35 & 66, Pky. Exit 102 S. or 100A N. to Rt. 66 E. for 2.5 mi., SH: Sat. 10am-9pm, Sun. 11am-5pm, T: 70-8', A: free. Collectors Showcase, Sandy Grecco, PO Box 189, Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716. PH: 732-291-1632.

Oct 25 NJ, Clifton. Comic Book, Sports Card & Collectibles Show, Boys & Girls Club. 802 Clifton Ave., SH: 9:30am-3:30pm, T: 50-8', F: $35. for 1, $65. for 2, A: $1., under 7 free. Gary Sipos, 1 Garden Ct. N., Garfield, NJ 07026. PH: 973-340-2218 or 779-9332 day of show.

Oct 25 NJ, Wayne. Comic Book Expo, Holiday Inn. Rt. 46 Service Rd. (off of Rt. 23 near Willowbrook Mall), SH: 10am-4pm, T: 30-8', F: $60., A: $2. (under 6 & 2nd parent free). J. Paul, 10 Cross St., Montclair, NJ 07042. PH: 973-783-0608.

Oct 31 NJ, Bridgewater. Comic Book, Sports Card & Collectibles Show, Country Hills Volunteer Fire Co. 264 Milltown Rd., SH: 9:30am-3pm, T: 30-8', F: $30., A: $1. Dave Bolka, 998 Walcutt Dr., Basking Ridge, NJ 07920. PH: 908-306-0821 or 253-2804.

Nov 1 NJ, Garfield. Comic Book, Sports Card & Collectibles Show, Boys & Girls Club. 490 Midland Ave., SH: 9:30am-3:30pm, T: 60-8', F: $35. for 1, $65. for 2, A: $1., under 7 free. Gary Sipos, 1 Garden Ct. N., Garfield, NJ 07026. PH: 973-340-2218 or 478-7662 day of show.

Nov 1 NJ, Wayne. Comic & Collectibles Show, Co. #1 Firemens Convention Ctr. 1 Parish Dr. off 202 N., SH: 9am-3pm, T: 110-6', F: $20., A: free. Phil DeMario, 137 Silleck St., Clifton, NJ 07013. PH: 973-742-2647 or 694-9773 day of show.

NEW YORK

Oct 8 NY, Deer Park. Comic Books, Action Figures & Non-Sports Card Show, Sons of Italy Lodge. 2075 Deer Park Ave., SH: 5:30pm-10pm, T: 40. Paul DeCarlo, PH: 516-289-7398.

Oct 10-11 NY, Yonkers. Comic Book & Sports Card Show, Mall at Cross County. 750 Central Ave., SH: 10am-6pm, T: 40-8', F: $125., A: free. Steve Tepper, 57-65 59th St., Maspeth, NY 11378. PH: 718-894-5310 or 516-379-8300.

Oct 10 NY, Manhattan. Big Apple Comic Book & Toy Convention, St. Paul Church. 9th Ave. 60th St., SH: Sat. 10am-6pm, T: 115., A: $6. Mike or Chris, 74-05 Metropolitan Ave., Middle Village, NY 11379. PH: 718-326-2713.

Oct 10 NY, Floral Park. Comic Book, Sports Cards & Beanie Babies Show, Memorial Park. Corner of Plainfield & Tulip Ave., SH: 9:30am-3pm, F: $30., A: free. Dennis, PH: 516-437-1249.

Oct 11 NY, Ozone Park-Queens. Comic Book, Sports Card & Memorabilia Show, Jewish Center. 107-01 Crossbay Blvd., SH: 10am-4pm, T: 36-8', F: $37.50 for 1, $65. for 2, A: $1. Joseph Caruana, 114-32 150th Ave., S. Ozone Park, NY 11420. PH: 718-845-7240 or 848-1795.

Oct 11 NY, Rockville Centre. LI Comic Book & Collectors Market Convention, Holiday Inn. 173 Sunrise Hwy., SH: 10am-5pm, T: 40, F: $60., A: free. Cosmic Comics, 246 Merrick Rd., Oceanside, NY 11572. PH: 516-763-1133.

Oct 11 NY, Brooklyn. Comic Book, BB Cards, Beanies Babies, Toys & Collectibles Show, Temple Hillel of Flatlands. 2164 Ralph Ave. (at Ave. L), SH: 10am-5pm, T: 50-8', F: $40. for 1, $75. for 2, A: free. Sunrise Prods., Scotty O'Donnell, PO Box 340625 Ryder Stn., Brooklyn, NY 11234. PH: 718-251-2075 or 241-6477.

Oct 16 NY, Brooklyn. Fri. Nite Comic Book, Sports Card, Non-Sports Card, Toys, Action Figure & Collectibles Show, St. Dominics Church. 20th Ave. & Bayridge Pky. (75 St.), SH: 6pm-10pm, T: 50-9', F: $40. for 1, $75. for 2, A: free. Sunrise Prods., Scotty O'Donnell, PO Box 340625 Ryder Stn., Brooklyn, NY 11234. PH: 718-251-2075 or 241-6477.

Oct 17 NY, Staten Island. Comic Book & Sports Card Show, St. Sylvester's School. 884 Targee St., Clove-Richmond Rd., Exit 278, SH: 10am-4pm, T: 40-9', F: $50., A: free. Joe Dezio, 884 Targee St., Staten Island, NY 10804. PH: 718-351-8056.

Oct 17-18 NY, Poughkeepsie. Comic Book & Sports Card Show, Galleria. Rt. 9 South Rd., SH: mall hrs., T: 48-8', F: $120. for 1, $230. for 2, A: free. Marty Leibowitz, 7 Jonathan Ln., Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. PH: 914-473-7165 eves.

Oct 17 NY, Sayville-LI. Comic Book, Action Figures & Non-Sports Card Show, Attias Indoor Flea Market. 5750 Sunrise Hwy. & Broadway, SH: 10am-5pm, T: 30, A: free. Paul DeCarlo, PH: 516-

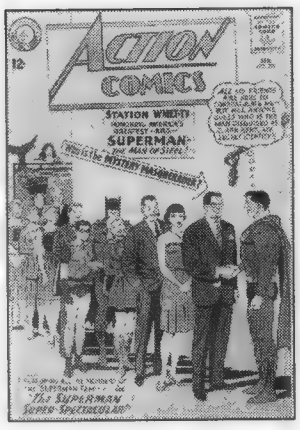
(Continues on Page 108)

"Most modern calendars mar the sweet simplicity of our lives by reminding us that each day that passes is the anniversary of some perfectly uninteresting event."

— Oscar Wilde

Two of the comics from Tony's childhood are ***Fantastic Four Annual*** *#1 (above) and* ***Action Comics*** *#309 (below.*

"Many of my early comics memories don't involve actual comics, but what was happening in my own life at the time I read this or that issue."



Welcome to my little corner of ***CBG*** #1300, another incredible milestone for comicdom's newspaper. It seems as though it was only two years ago that we were celebrating ***CBG*** #1200, one of the advantages of weekly publication.

Over in cyberspace, my daily "Tony's Online Tips" is closing in on its 500th installment. Based on the number of floppy discs I've used to store the column, I've written the equivalent of four *really* long novels.

That total is for *one* column running approximately 1,200 words per day. Can you compute the "novel" equivalent of 1,300 issues of *this* newspaper? I know I can't, though I *can* picture editor Maggie Thompson's fingers flying over a calculator as she adds up the word counts of the news articles, letters pages, opinion columns, comic strips, and other features that have appeared in ***CBG***'s 1,300 issues. If this were an episode of *Star Trek* and she were an evil computer, she'd be blowing up right about now.

Romantic Italian that I am, I generally get reflective around these anniversaries. Consider that a warning.

Early reader. Although I learned to read from comic books at the tender age of 4, I can't recall the first comic book I ever saw. My guess would be that it was either an issue of *Casper,* whose cartoons were shown on local television, or one of the IW reprints Mom used to buy for me. I have very strong memories of reading an issue of *Red Mask* that also featured The Presto Kid, a cowboy magician by Dick Ayers. A check of *The Overstreet Comic Book Price Guide* confirms this to be a possibility, since Israel Waldman did reprint issues with the character.

In 1966, when Harvey Comics published a *Fighting American* one-shot, I realized I had once read some of the stories. That added a third possibility to the above list. However, as much as I liked those wild super-hero stories by Joe Simon and Jack Kirby, I can't imagine my mother buying such a comic book for me. The most likely suspect would be my Uncle Ralph on my mother's side of the family. He had a large collection of *Captain America, Human Torch,* and *Sub-Mariner* comics before Uncle Sam sent him to Korea. My grandmother threw them out while he was overseas, proving once again that war is truly hell.

The first comic books I bought for myself — on the occasion of getting a quarter from some kindly relative — were issues of *Spooky the Tuff Little Ghost* and *Superman.* I don't remember anything about these comics, except that I bought them at the neighborhood cigar shop, newsstand, and, as I learned much later in life, bookie parlor. The owner had a truly magnificent display of comics and magazines and newspapers in a store so small it always seemed as though the walls were closing in on you.

Many of my early comics memories don't involve actual comics, but what was happening in my own life at the time I read this or that issue. My family moved from Detroit Avenue and West 65th Street to Peony Avenue and West 115th Street before I started school. We were the first Italian family in the neighborhood, and, although it took a while for me to figure it out, some of our neighbors weren't too happy about that. I blame Robert Stack.

(Digression. My father was one of the few Italians in our old neighborhood who *wasn't* mob-connected. I used to tape his picture to the "Most Wanted" poster at the post office just to get respect from the other kids. Ba-da-boom.)

Comics and friends. Comic books became very important to me, both before and after I started making friends in my new surroundings. My favorites were *Batman* and *Challengers of the Unknown.* I used to collect and label dirt samples from all around the neighborhood, storing them in an old shoe box. This was so I could, in imitation of Batman, locate the secret hideouts of criminals operating on my street. I also used to clip newspaper weather maps, which also found their way to this portable "crime-lab." I don't know what happened to that box, but I suspect my mother is still using it to protect our neighbors from the forces of evil.

Vacation trips were always great for comics. Because my dad's schedule at the Isabella Brothers Bakery was so demanding, we went on a lot of one-day trips. That meant a lot of driving. It also meant a lot of stops at little, out-of-the-way stores where comics were allowed to age on the spinner racks like fine wine. Just the thing to keep me quiet on those trips.

For some reason, possibly because the store owners didn't pay attention to the small *The Brave and the Bold* and *Showcase* logos on the covers, I could always find multiple issues of those titles. I remember one trip where I bought various "try-out" appearances of The Atom, The Justice League of America, and The Sea Devils. My memory is better on these issues. It was the first Atom issue of *Showcase,* the JLA and Weapons Master issue of *Brave and Bold,* and The Sea Devils *Showcase* which cover-pictured the team shrunken and trapped in a bottle.

Comics changed his life. On another trip, I bought the comic book that changed my life forever: *Fantastic Four Annual* #1 (1963). But I'm getting a little ahead of myself here.

Like most boys, my interest turned to baseball and even girls. Italians mature early. My comics buying had dropped to a mere five titles: *Adventure Comics* (The Legion of Super-Heroes), *Challengers of the Unknown, Green Lantern, Justice League of America,* and *My Greatest Adventure* (The Doom Patrol).

I remember reading *Adventure Comics* #314, "The Super-Villains of All Ages," on the day President Kennedy was assassinated. I still bought other comics on occasion, but those were my regular titles.

Two of those other occasional comics were *Action Comics* #309 and *Fantastic Four* #7. The former is notable for two reasons. In the cover story, "The Superman Super-Spectacular," Big Blue reveals his Clark Kent identity to President Kennedy and enlists Kennedy's help to protect said identity. Unfortunately, the issue, which had been shipped some weeks earlier, appeared on newsstands *after* the President's assassination. Some readers took offense at Kennedy's surprise appearance, but most understood, at least after the editor explained the situation in a "Metropolis Mailbag" that appeared a few issues later.

I confess I didn't quite know what to make of *Fantastic Four* #7. These characters didn't act like The Justice League. For one thing, they seemed to argue a lot. For another, they took showers. (The Thing turned the hot water all the way up while The Human Torch was getting ready for a some government ceremony, causing his angry teammate to burst into flame.) Save for Jimmy Olsen taking bubble-baths during a couple of his frequent cross-dressing adventures, personal hygiene was rarely portrayed in comics. I was confused but strangely fascinated. I kept flipping through various Marvel comics but didn't buy another one until *The Amazing Spider-Man* #9, the first appearance of Electro. I liked it a lot and decided to give The Fantastic Four another chance.

Finally, the 'FF Annual.' Now we come to *Fantastic Four Annual* #1 by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby, my personal choice for the greatest comic book of all time. We were visiting relatives of my father in Oneonta, N.Y., which is not far from the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. My dad's uncle owned a store, and I bought a few comic books to help pass the time while the adults caught up on family news. I was 11 years old.

That issue opened my eyes to the wonders of comic books as no other comic book ever had. It started out with the epic 37-page "Sub-Mariner versus the Human Race," the longest and most exciting comics story I'd ever read. It had fact pages about The Fantastic Four and their villains, which brought the characters to life as no other comic book had ever done for me. It reprinted the origin of The Fantastic Four, which, along with the "historical" information given in the lead story, gave me a sense of history. It even had a story in which Spider-Man tried to get a "job" as a member of the team. That sounded better than collecting pop bottles and turning them in for comic-book money.

Most important, *Fantastic Four Annual* #1 was the first time I really took note of the credits.

Written by: Stan Lee
Drawn by: Jack Kirby
Inking: Dick Ayers
Lettering: Art Simek

Maybe it was because I'd just read about Spidey's employment difficulties, but it suddenly occurred to me that people wrote and drew comic books for a living. That's when I knew what I wanted to do when I grew up, even though it would be several years before I actually thought my ambition was attainable — and a few more years before Roy Thomas opened the door for me.

We'll pick this up again in a future column, maybe even next week. Or maybe I'll just get really ahead on my deadline for ***CBG*** #1400. You'll know almost as soon as I do.

You can send your comments on and review items for this column to: Tony's Tips, P.O. Box 1502, Medina, OH 44258. You can e-mail your comments to Tony at: tonyisa@ohio.net

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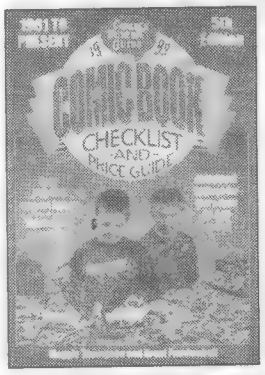

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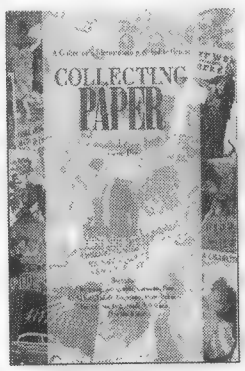

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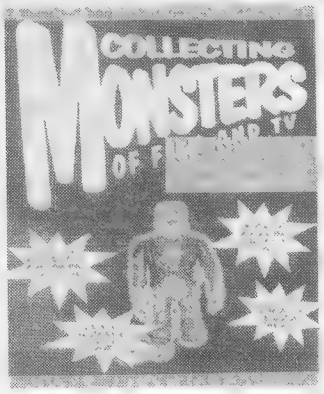

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by FRED HEMBECK
NEW! E-MAIL ME AT fhembeck@aol.com

1956.
I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT JUST HAPPENED TO ME--
diner

--A BOLT OF LIGHTNING CRASHES THROUGH MY OFFICE WINDOW, SHATTERING MY CABINET AND BATHING ME IN CHEMICALS; AND ALL OF A SUDDEN, MY FEET ARE FASTER THAN MY OLD COMIC BOOK FAVE, THE FLASH! CRAZY.

WITHOUT WARNING..
OOPS!
WHAT THE?..

THE FOOD! IT--IT SEEMS FROZEN IN MID-AIR! AS IF I COULD JUST REACH OUT AND CATCH IT BEFORE--

FORGET IT, BARRY.
Huh?
CRASH

IN FACT, IF I WERE YOU, I'D FORGET EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED TO ME TONIGHT. AS A SCIENTIST, YOU'RE A CREDIT TO THE CENTRAL CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT-- WHY MAKE WAVES?
Oh, GEEZ..

DO I KNOW YOU, MISTER..?
HEMBECK. FRED HEMBECK. AND, NO, YOU DON'T KNOW ME, BUT I SURE KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU, MR. ALLEN.

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY SIR. I'LL SEE YOU GET ANOTHER ORDER RIGHT AWAY.
THAT'S ALL RIGHT. THESE THINGS HAPPEN.
Oh, AND WAITRESS? COULD YOU BRING ME AN ORANGE SNAPPLE?

huh? "SNAPPLE"?
Oh. RIGHT. heh. ANY ORANGE SODA WILL DO, THANKS.
..THIS ONE'S TROUBLE.

I KEEP FORGETTING--SNAPPLE HASN'T BEEN DEVELOPED YET. YOU'D BE SURPRISED HOW BEING FROM THE FUTURE CAN HAMPER YOU!
YOU THINK YOU'RE FROM THE FUTURE? PAL, I THINK YOU'RE A LITTLE NUTS.

MAYBE I AM, BUT I KNOW ALL ABOUT THE CHEMICAL SHOWER YOU JUST TOOK IN YOUR LAB, AND I KNOW ALL ABOUT HOW IT TURNED YOU INTO THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE-- AND DIG THIS: I KNOW ALL ABOUT THE SNAZZY RED JUMPSUIT WITH THE COOL YELLOW LIGHTNING BOLT THAT YOU'RE GONNA SLIP INTO ONCE YOU MAKE UP YOUR MIND TO FIGHT CRIME AS THE FLASH!
..YEAH, GUESS I AM A LITTLE NUTS.

THE FLASH? THAT'S LUDICROUS BECAUSE, a.) JAY GARRICK IS THE FLASH--AT LEAST, HE WAS, UNTIL HIS COMIC WAS DISCONTINUED A FEW YEARS BACK, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, b.) THE FLASH WAS A FICTIONAL CHARACTER, FER GOSH SAKES!?
Uh uh. YOU ONLY THINK SO.

Hmm. WELL, I SUPPOSE THAT'S ONE WAY OF LOOKING AT IT.
SO ANSWER ME THIS, SMART GUY-- HOW COME THEY'RE ON EARTH-TWO, AND WE'RE ON EARTH-ONE??

HEY, EVEN I CAN'T EXPLAIN EVERYTHING!!
HERE'S YOUR SODA, SIR.
THANKS.
AND YOUR FOOD WILL BE OUT SOON.
THAT'S ALL RIGHT, MISS. I'M NOT IN ANY HURRY.

Y'SEE, BAR, EARLY IN YOUR FLASH CAREER, YOU'LL ACCIDENTALLY USE YOUR SPEED TO TUNE INTO THE VIBRATIONAL FREQUENCY OF YOUR BOYHOOD IDOL'S HOME, AND SOON AFTER, YOU TWO WILL BE BATTLING INJUSTICE SIDE-BY-SIDE ON HIS WORLD AS WELL AS YOURS.
Huh? "HIS WORLD"?

Uh huh. A PARALLEL EARTH. ONE OF MANY. FACT IS, THE ENTIRE JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA RESIDES THERE. EARTH-TWO.
EARTH-TWO?! THEN-- WHERE'S EARTH-ONE??

YOU'RE SOAKING IN IT--er, YOU'RE SITTING ON IT. THING IS, YOU'RE MERELY THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF NEW INCARNATIONS OF JSA STALWARTS THAT'LL APPEAR HERE ON EARTH-ONE. GREEN LANTERN, THE ATOM, HAWKMAN-- THEY'RE ALL COMING.
LET ME SEE IF I UNDERSTAND THIS: GARRICK'S EARTH FEATURES THE ORIGINAL VERSIONS, WHILE MY EARTH HAS THE IMITATIONS?

Ha. THAT'S FUNNY COMING FROM THE FUTURE SCARLET SPEEDSTER.
LOOK, FRANK--
FRED,
WHATEVER. I'M NOT SAYING I BELIEVE YOU, THOUGH YOU DID KNOW ABOUT THAT... INCIDENT. IN MY LAB, SO I'LL HUMOR YOU, BUT REALLY--

--WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? WHAT IF I DO BECOME A COSTUMED CRIMEFIGHTER? WHAT IF THERE ARE OTHERS LIKE ME--
THE JUSTICE LEAGUE.
slurp.

1.

Barry Allen and both versions of Chronos and, heck, even the waitress are ™ and © 1998 DC Comics. Dateline @!!?★ and Fred Hembeck are ™ and © 1998 Fred Hembeck. All rights reserved.

...THE... JUSTICE LEAGUE?..

oh YEAH! YOU, THE NEW LANTERN, SUPERMAN, BATMAN, AQUAMAN, WONDER WOMAN, J'ONN J'ONZZ--MAN oh MAN, JUST IMAGINE! WHAT A GROUP!

"JOHN JONES"? I FIGHT CRIME ALONGSIDE SUPERMAN --AND A GUY NAMED JOHN JONES??

YEAH. A GUY NAMED J'ONN J'ONZZ FROM THE PLANET MARS.

oh.

BUT I STILL DON'T GET IT--WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO WARN ME OFF THIS GREAT LIFE OF ADVENTURE? Geez, I MEAN, WHAT KIND OF AWFUL CRISIS COULD I POSSIBLY GET INTO??

HOO BOY--DID YOU EVER JUST SAY THE MAGIC WORD.

UNDERSTAND, MR. ALLEN, THAT ONCE YOU OPENED THE DOOR TO YOUR NEIGHBORING EARTH, TWAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME TIL THE JLA AND JSA GOT TOGETHER-- AND FRIEND, T'WEREN'T JEST FER TEA, NEITHER.

PUT THOSE TWO GROUPS ANYWHERE NEAR ONE ANOTHER, AND SOME SORTA CRISIS WAS SURE TO FOLLOW.

IT WAS INEVITABLE. EVERY SUMMER, THE JLA CASEBOOK WOULD RECORD MASSIVE COLLECTIVE EXPLOITS WITH CODE-NAMES LIKE "CRISIS ON EARTH-ONE", "CRISIS ON EARTH-TWO", "CRISIS ON EARTH-THREE"--

"EARTH-THREE"?! THERE'S AN EARTH-THREE?!?

YOU BET. AND A NASTY PLACE IT WAS, TOO. THE ONLY SUPER-BEINGS ON THAT SORRY PLANET WERE HARDENED CRIMINALS -- WHO JUST HAPPENED, I MIGHT ADD, TO BE ANALOGS TO SOME OF THE JLA'S BIG GUNS: POWER RING, OWLMAN, ULTRAMAN, SUPERWOMAN, AND YOUR DOPPELGANGER, JOHNNY QUICK--NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH THE EARTH-TWO GOOD GUY, OF COURSE.

OF COURSE. HOW COULD I POSSIBLY GET CONFUSED?

DON'T SWEAT IT, oh SWIFT ONE. GOOD OVERCAME EVIL IN THAT INSTANCE, AND EARTH-THREE WASN'T HEARD FROM AGAIN FOR QUITE SOME TIME.

TELL ME THIS-- WAS.. WAS THERE AN EARTH-FOUR?

WELL, TECHNICALLY, YES, BUT IT WAS PRETTY MUCH LABELED THAT AFTER THE FACT. Y'SEE, DC COMICS --OR NATIONAL, AS YOU KNOW THEM -- BOUGHT UP THE RIGHTS TO SCORES OF CHARACTERS FROM FAILING OR DEFUNCT RIVAL PUBLISHING COMPANIES, AND EARTH-FOUR WAS DESIGNATED THE HOME OF THE CHARLTON ACTION-HEROES, JUST IN TIME FOR THEM TO BE ABSORBED INTO YOUR WORLD DURING THE ULTIMATE CRISIS.

"THE ULTIMATE CRISIS"?..

OOPS--I'M GETTING AHEAD OF MYSELF. NO, THE JLA AND JSA NEVER DEALT WITH A CRISIS ON EARTH-FOUR, BUT MAN, THAT CRISIS ON EARTH-X SURE WAS A DOOZY!

"X"? WHAT? DID YOU RUN OUT OF NUMBERS FOR THESE EARTHS?

IT'S A CODE THING. WHY, THERE WAS EVEN A CRISIS ON EARTH-A, BUT THAT'S BEST FORGOTTEN. ACTUALLY, IT WAS FORGOTTEN! JOHNNY THUNDER'S THUNDERBOLT MAGICALLY CREATED A TOPSY-TURVY ALTERNATE EARTH --HENCE, EARTH-A--BUT AFTER THE ASSEMBLED JUSTICERS TIDIED UP HIS FOLLY, THE CHAGRINED T-BOLT WAS SO EMBARRASSED THAT HE WIPED CLEAN THE MEMORY OF THE EPISODE FROM EVERYONE'S MIND.

EXCEPT, IT SEEMS, YOU?

ME, AND EVERYONE ELSE ON EARTH-PRIME-- AND BEFORE YOU ASK, THAT'S WHERE WE TALENTED ARTISTS AND WRITERS WHO TRANSCRIBE YOUR HEROIC DEEDS FOR AN EAGER PUBLIC CALL HOME.

Huh? YOU MEAN YOU DRAW ME IN ACTION FOR NATIONAL COMICS?

WELL, uh, NO, CAN'T SAY THAT I DO -- BUT I DID ILLUSTRATE A ZOOT SPUTNIK SERIES FOR THEM ONCE!

... ANYHOO, ABOUT EARTH-X: I KNOW YOU'RE A LONGSTANDING COMICS ENTHUSIAST, SO YOU'LL APPRECIATE THIS! REMEMBER THE GREAT OLD QUALITY COMICS GROUP? DOLL MAN? THE RAY? THE BLACK CONDOR? THE PHANTOM LADY?

WHO COULD FORGET THE PHANTOM LADY?..

WELL, ADD THE HUMAN BOMB AND UNCLE SAM TO THE MIX, AND YOU'VE GOT THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS. WHY WERE THEY FIGHTING FOR THEIR FREEDOM, YOU WONDER? BECAUSE, BARRY, THINGS DIDN'T WORK OUT QUITE AS WELL ON EARTH-X AS THEY DID HERE -- WHAT IS IT NOW? A DECADE AGO? -- SINCE THERE THE NAZIS WON WORLD WAR TWO.

NO!?!

DON'T GET YOUR BRIEFS IN A BUNCH, BAR--EVEN NAZIS COULDN'T STAND UP TO THE COMBINED ALLIANCE OF THE JLA, JSA, AND THE FF. EARTH-X WAS QUICKLY LIBERATED, AND THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS SOON RELOCATED TO EARTH-TWO. YUP, YOU GUYS COULD HANDLE JUST ABOUT ANYTHING, INCLUDING THAT LITTLE DUST-UP AT THE ROCK OF ETERNITY ON EARTH-S.

sigh.

PLEASE-- DON'T MAKE ME GUESS JUST TELL ME.

HELLOZ "S" FOR SHAZAM. DO I HAFTA REMIND AN OLD COMICS GEEK LIKE YOURSELF IT'S THE CODE WORD THAT TURNS BILLY BATSON INTO CAPTAIN MARVEL? NOT TO MENTION MARY AND JUNIOR MARVEL? FIGHTING ALONGSIDE THEM AND LESSER FAWCETT COMICS CHARACTERS LIKE IBIS AND SPY SMASHER MADE FOR A ROUSING CRISIS CASE.

BUT I DON'T GET IT--IF IT WAS THE HOMEWORLD OF THE MARVEL FAMILY, WHY EARTH-S? WHY NOT EARTH-M?

THE REASON, MY FELLOW FOUR-COLOR FANCIER, WILL BECOME PAINFULLY OBVIOUS TO YOU AND YOUR FELLOW DC BRETHREN IN JUST A FEW SHORT YEARS, BUT REALLY HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOUR SITUATION HERE TODAY.

HERE'S YOUR FOO--

oops

Geez, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, BARRY? THIS OUTFIT'S JUST BORROWED!

1998. THE APARTMENT OF WALKER GABRIEL, THE NEW CHRONOS...

I--I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, SIR?! I--

EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT NOW, MISS. NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT! (EXCEPT PERHAPS YOUR TIP...)

LET ME POINT OUT THAT YOU FOLKS DIDN'T ALWAYS HAVE TO JOURNEY TO PARALLEL EARTHS TO DIG UP TROUBLE, OF COURSE...

WHERE DID I PUT THAT G2A!ING TIME-TRAVEL SUIT?...

FOR INSTANCE, THERE WAS THAT ENCOUNTER THE LEAGUE AND SOCIETY HAD WITH THOSE OTHER EARTH-TWO NATIVES, THE SEVEN SOLDIERS OF VICTORY.

WHAAAAT? THOSE SECOND-STRINGERS FROM "LEADING COMICS"? Hmpf. HARD TO BELIEVE.

tsk, tsk-- DON'T BE SNOBBISH, BARRY--IT DOESN'T BECOME YOU. ESPECIALLY SINCE THE SEVEN SOLDIERS TRAGICALLY LOST ONE OF THEIR OWN DURING THAT MISSION. SURE, IT WAS THE UNOFFICIAL EIGHTH MEMBER OF THE GROUP--WHO ALSO HAPPENED TO REPRESENT AN OUTDATED ASIAN STEREOTYPE-- THE CRIMSON AVENGER'S SIDEKICK, WING, SO THEY WERE NOT ONLY ABLE TO MAINTAIN THEIR NAME, BUT BECOME P.C. IN THE PROCESS. STILL, IT WAS KINDA SAD ANYWAY.

"P.C."? IS THAT ANOTHER EARTH?

2.

IN SOME FOLKS MINDS, I GUESS IT IS, BUT IN THE COMICS, NO.

HOWEVER, THERE ARE A COUPLE OF VERY SPECIAL PLANETS THAT EXIST SEPARATELY FROM, BUT ALONGSIDE TO, YOUR EARTH -- NEW GENESIS AND APOKOLIPS.

YIKES, WHAT A CRISIS! THE JLA, THE JSA, THE NEW GODS -- ORION, BIG BARDA, MR. MIRACLE, HIGH-FATHER -- SQUARING OFF AGAINST THE PURE EVIL OF DARKSEID, DESAAD, AND GRANNY GOODNESS!! Whew! INTENSE!!

"DARKSIDE"? "MR. MIRACLE"? "DESAAD"? "GRANNY GOODNESS"?

WHAT KIND OF NAMES ARE THOSE?

KIRBY NAMES! BUT KIRBY SAYS, "DON'T QUESTION IT, JUST BUY IT!"

huh?

SORRY. Heh. JUST LAPSED INTO A LITTLE KINGSPEAK. WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.

WHILE THERE WAS NEVER A CRISIS IN THE ERA OF KAMANDI, THE LAST BOY ON EARTH YOU HAVE HAD YOUR SHARE OF TIME TRAVELING TRAYAILS.

I THINK I'M HAVING ONE NOW.

Ha ha. CUTE.

MORDRU THE MAGICIAN PLUCKED MEMBERS OF YOUR TWO ORGANIZATIONS TO BE PUPPETS IN HIS VENDETTA AGAINST THE 30th CENTURY'S FABLED DEFENDERS, THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES!

"THE... LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES?!"

NO LIE! THAT CONGREGATION BOASTS MORE MEMBERS THAN THE ENTIRE LEAGUE AND SOCIETY ROSTERS COMBINED -- AND THEY'RE ALL YOUNGER AND BETTER LOOKING THAN LEONARDO DICAPRIO AND KATE WINSLET.

WHO?

JAMES DEAN AND NATALIE WOOD.

Oh.

YOU GET MY DRIFT. AND LONG AFTER SUCCESSFULLY WRAPPING UP THE CRISIS IN THE 30th CENTURY, YOU WERE FACED WITH THE CRISIS FROM YESTERDAY. A NUT CALLED THE LORD OF TIME RECRUITED DISORIENTED HEROES FROM DC'S PAST TO OPPOSE YOU GUYS!

Oh, YOU MEAN LIKE TOMAHAWK, THE TRIGGER TWINS, POW-WOW SMITH AND THE BLACK PIRATE?

WELL, MORE LIKE MISS LIBERTY, JONAH HEX, ENEMY ACE, AND THE VIKING PRINCE -- CHARACTERS FROM THE PAST THAT ARE STILL IN THE FUTURE. Oh, AND THE BLACK PIRATE. IT ALL WORKED OUT.

PROBABLY THE LAST GREAT EPIC ADVENTURE THE TWO GROUPS SHARED BEFORE... WELL, BEFORE THE LAST CRISIS, FEATURED TIME-HOPPING BACK TO THE DAYS OF THE JSA'S WORLD WAR TWO COMBAT BATTALION, THE ALL-STAR SQUADRON.

...YOU GONNA EAT THAT PICKLE?

HELP YOURSELF.

I'M CONFUSED -- AGAIN -- I HAVE A COMPLETE COLLECTION OF "ALL-STAR COMICS;" THE JSA'S FORTIES HOME, AND I DON'T RECALL A SINGLE MENTION OF A "WHAT? "ALL-STAR SQUADRON"?...

Mm. TART.

Nah, YOU DIDN'T MISS AN ISSUE. THEIR ACTIVITIES WERE CLASSIFIED. EITHER THAT, OR THEY MADE IT UP AFTER THE FACT. TAKE YOUR PICK.

YOU'RE TELLING ME SOUNDS, WELL, BIG AND BLOATED. WEREN'T THERE ANY, Y'KNOW, SMALLER, PERSONAL STORIES? CHARACTER STUFF?

EVERYTHING

Oh, SURE. LIKE, WHEN THE SANDMAN BELATEDLY REVEALED THAT HE'D ACCIDENTALLY TURNED HIS KID SIDEKICK, SANDY, INTO A GARGANTUAN SAND MONSTER DECADES EARLIER AND HAD BEEN HIDING HIM IN SHAME EVER SINCE!

MY GOSH!

AND YOU WANT HEARTRENDING TRAGEDY? HOWABOUT WHEN LARRY LANCE, THE BLACK CANARY'S HUBBY, SACRIFICED HIS LIFE SO THAT YOU ALL COULD LIVE? WHY, THE CANARY WAS SO SHOOK UP THAT SHE CHANGED EARTHS AND JOINED YOUR TEAM.

Mm. I CAN'T SAY THAT WAS A TRAGEDY.

ANOTHER GROUP ENCOUNTER CULMINATED WITH THE RED TORNADO SIGNING UP WITH YOUR LEAGUE!

you -- YOU MEAN I'M A MEMBER OF A TEAM THAT INCLUDES A MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN WHO RUNS AROUND WITH A SOUP POT ON HER HEAD??

Ha ha -- NO, BARRY, NOT AT ALL. SAME NAME, DIFFERENT CHARACTER. BETTER CHARACTER.

Hen -- AND THEY CALL HIM THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE?...

THAT'S NOT SAYING MUCH. HECK, MR. TERRIFIC IS A BETTER CHARACTER THAN MA HUNKLE.

WAS.

huh?

I'M AFRAID THINGS AREN'T SO TERRIFIC FOR TERRY SLOANE THESE DAYS. HE HAD THE DUBIOUS DISTINCTION OF HEADLINING THE ONE AND ONLY JLA-JSA MURDER MYSTERY.

MR. TERRIFIC -- MURDERED??

yup. AND -- YOU'RE NOT EATING, ARE YOU? GOOD. THEN I CAN SAFELY TELL YOU -- THE CULPRIT WAS YOUR OL' BUDDY, JAY GARRICK!

THE FLASH -- A MURDERER?!

NOT ACTUALLY, SO TRY AND STAY CALM. JAY WASN'T REALLY RESPONSIBLE BECAUSE HE WAS POSSESSED BY AN EVIL BEING AT THE TIME OF THE CRIME (THOUGH WE NEVER DID SEE HOW THAT DEFENSE HELD UP IN A COURT OF LAW). KINDA REMINDS ME OF THE SLUGFEST YOU GUYS WAGED AGAINST A POSSESSED CARY BATES.

"CARY BATES"? WHO'S CARY BATES?

ONE OF THOSE WRITER-FELLAS FROM EARTH-PRIME I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT, ELLIOT MAGGIN, ANOTHER EARTH-P WORDSMITH, HELPED YOU KNOCK SOME SENSE BACK INTO HIS ERSTWHILE PARTNER'S NOGGIN!

EARTH-PRIME -- EARTH-X -- EARTHS -- EARTH 1 UP THROUGH INFINITY -- MY HEAD'S SPINNING! THIS IS ALL GETTING EXTREMELY CONFUSING!?

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE RAMPAGING COMICS' PROS!...

YEAH, AFTER A WHILE, I GUESS IT DID. THAT'S PROBABLY WHY, IN 1985, THE DC COMICS BRAIN-TRUST ELECTED TO LAUNCH A 12 ISSUE SERIES THAT WOULD BE BOTH THE MOST STAR-STUDDED AND MOST CATACLYSMIC SAGA IN THE COMPANY'S ENTIRE HISTORY. REMEMBER THAT ULTIMATE CRISIS I ALLUDED TO EARLIER? THIS WAS IT: THE CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS!

WELL, THAT CERTAINLY COVERS A LOT OF GROUND.

THE REAL PURPOSE OF IT ALL WAS TO CONSOLIDATE THE GOOD CHARACTERS FROM THE VARIOUS PARALLEL PLANETS ONTO ONE EARTH -- YOURS -- AND THAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY TURNING LOOSE A COSMIC-POWERED MANIAC BENT ON WIPING OUT ALL REALITY.

SOUNDS DIRE.

YOU DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT! WHOLE EARTHS VANISHED. EARTH-3? PFFT -- GONE, JUST LIKE THAT. YEAH, THE GOOD GUYS TRIUMPHED IN THE END -- HEY, WAS THERE REALLY ANY DOUBT? -- BUT TAKING DOWN THIS ANTI-MONITOR CREEP WASN'T WITHOUT SOME HEAVY CASUALTIES

Mm hmm. MORE THIRD AND FOURTH BANANAS LIKE WING, LARRY LANCE, AND MR. TERRIFIC, NO DOUBT.

3.

SOME, SURE, BUT WE ALSO LOST A FEW *HEADLINERS* AS WELL. LIKE SUPERGIRL, AND...
um
..YOU, BARRY.
WAITRESS -- CAN WE GET SOME MORE *NAPKINS* OVER HERE PLEASE?
you -- you MEAN I'M... gulp.. *DEAD*?
WELL, NOT *YET*, OBVIOUSLY, BUT PUT ON THAT RED SUIT AND I MAKE YOU *NO* GUARANTEES. HEY, IF IT'S ANY CONSOLATION, YOU *DID* SAVE THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE IN THE PROCESS, AND IF YA GOTTA GO, THAT *AIN'T* A BAD WAY TO LEAVE THE BUILDING!
(THANKS).
SO -- SO, THAT'S *IT*? NO MORE FLASH AFTER THAT?
THOUGH HE'S GETTING UP THERE IN YEARS, AND IS *MOSTLY* RETIRED, IRONICALLY, GARRICK *OUTLIVED* YOU. BUT WORRY NOT, BECAUSE THE FLASH NAME IS BEING DONE *PROUD* BY YOUR ONE-TIME PROTEGE, THE *FORMER* KID FLASH, WALLY WEST!
DID YOU SAY "WEST"? LIKE *IRIS* WEST, MY GIRLFRIEND?
OH, YEAH -- I *FORGOT*. YOU *HAVEN'T* MET HER NEPHEW YET. YOU WILL. *NICE* KID, THOUGH HE *DOES* GET A BIT *SNOTTY* DURING THE TEEN YEARS. DON'T THEY *ALL*? AND FOR THE RECORD, THAT'S IRIS *ALLEN*, NOT WEST. YOU *MARRIED* HER. HEH -- THE *THINGS* I COULD TELL YOU!!
WHAT? *WHAT*?! DON'T YOU START HOLDING BACK *NOW*, OR SO HELP ME --
OKAY, *OKAY*! I'*LL* SEE -- FOR *STARTERS*, YOUR SWEETIE IS FROM THE 30th CENTURY, BUT EVEN *SHE* DOESN'T REALIZE THAT YET. AND *THEN* THERE WAS THE *TRAUMA* YOU ALL SUFFERED WHEN SHE *DIED* AT THE HANDS OF YOUR ARCH-ENEMY, PROFESSOR ZOOM, THE REVERSE-FLASH, HE OF THE... *WHICH* CENTURY IS IT? 64th, I THINK .. OR WAS *THAT* ABRA KADABRA? NO MATTER. YOU PUT ZOOM'S LIGHTS *OUT* -- OR SO IT SEEMED. WHAT A TRIAL *THAT* WAS!
IRIS -- DEAD?
IT'S *OKAY*. THEY'VE GOT A SAYING IN THE COMICS THESE DAYS -- "SHE GOT *BETTER*". HER LIFE ESSENCE WAS *TRANSFERRED* TO A CLONED BODY IN HER NATIVE ERA, AND, IN FACT, YOU TWO WERE *REUNITED* THERE FOR A FEW *IDYLLIC* MONTHS BEFORE YOU MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE. AFTERWARDS, IRIS *RETURNED* TO THE 20th CENTURY, AND YOU KNOW *WHAT* SHE *DID*, BARZ.
WH-*WHAT*?
WROTE A BOOK! A BESTSELLER ENTITLED "THE LIFE STORY OF THE FLASH" AN INTIMATE AND EXPERT CHRONICLING OF YOUR CAREER. THERE *ARE* SOME *SURPRISES* FOR EVERYONE, EVEN *YOU* -- ARE YOU AWARE YOU HAVE A *TWIN* OUT THERE YOUR FOLKS *NEVER* TOLD YOU ABOUT? IRIS ALLUDES TO SOME *SINISTER* REASON IN THE TOME'S OPENING PASSAGES, BUT REGRETFULLY *NEVER* PROVIDES A PAYOFF TO THIS CRYPTIC INFO. IT'S THE BOOK'S *SOLE* FAILING.
--WHY?..
WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME ALL THIS? *WHY* TRAVEL ACROSS TIME TO *TORTURE* ME WITH MY FUTURE *TRIALS, TRIBULATIONS* AND *TRAGEDIES*??
FOR YOUR *OWN* GOOD, BARRY. NOW YOU'LL BE ABLE TO CHOOSE YOUR *OWN* FATE AND LIVE A *LONG, HAPPY* LIFE!
BALDERDASH!
"BALDER-DASH"?..
HE HAS *NO* INTEREST IN YOUR FUTURE, BARRY ALLEN, ONLY HIS *OWN*!
YOU?!

YES, *ME*, THE *REAL* FRED HEMBECK, HUMBLE COMICS FAN. *THIS* SORRY SPECIMAN IS THE *ANTI-FRED*, DOUBLE-AGENT OF THE ANTI-MONITOR!
BUT, *WHY*? *WHY* DID HE DO IT?
Bah! I'*LL* TELL YOU *WHY*! I FIGURED IF I ENDED *YOUR* CAREER BEFORE IT HAD A CHANCE TO *START*, THEN MAYBE THE *WHOLE* RE-EMERGENCE OF THE SUPER-HERO AND THE ENTIRE SO-CALLED SILVER AGE OF COMICS WOULD COME TO A SCREECHING *HALT*!
THEN MAYBE DC WOULD *CONTINUE* PUBLISHING TITLES LIKE "LEAVE IT TO BINKY" "HERE'S HOWIE" AND "PETER PORK-CHOPS" INSTEAD, GIVING BIG-FOOT CARTOONISTS LIKE *ME* A BETTER SHOT AT SECURING SOME *REGULAR* ASSIGNMENTS!
WHAT ABOUT "THE ADVENTURES OF DEAN MARTIN AND JERRY LEWIS"?
NO ONE.. snif.. WANTS TO SEE ZOOT SPUTNIK ANYMORE.
YOU *SICKEN* ME.
DISREGARD *ALL* YOU HAVE HEARD HERE TODAY, BARRY ALLEN. LET YOUR *HEART* BE YOUR GUIDE, FOR THE DC UNIVERSE *NEEDS* YOU. FAREWELL.
sob. I COULD'VE STOPPED DIALOG LIKE *THAT*, TOO!
..AND I DON'T CARE *WHAT* THE BEYONDER TOLD YOU, I *WON'T* HAVE YOU TAMPERING WITH THE MARVEL UNIVERSE.
..BOY, THEY SURE DO DRESS *FUNNY* IN THE FUTURE...

1998
DAVID CLINTON 1972 - 1998 CHRONOS I "TIME WISE, FASHION FOOLISH"
CAN I GET YOU ANYTHING *ELSE*, SIR?
A DOUBLE SCOTCH?
NO?
I *DIDN'T* THINK SO. JUST THE CHECK.
BARRY -- THERE YOU ARE!
oh.
IRIS.
HI.
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME SO *ODDLY*, BARRY?
Oh, ah, *NO* REASON. COME ON -- LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
IRIS *SEEMS* TO DRESS FAIRLY NORMAL. MAYBE THAT KOOK WAS *WRONG* ABOUT HER...
KEEP TELLING YOURSELF THAT, BARRY..
--IT'S PROBABLY *BETTER* THAT WAY.
WHAT A *LOUSY* TIP!! THAT GUY'LL BE OF *NO* USE TO *ANY*-*ONE*, MARK MY WORD...
CRISIS *RESOLVED*!!

Mr. Mind was among the villains sent to Earth-X by Brainiac.

CRISIS
(From Page 42)

impenetrable barrier between the Earths, the villains issued their demands to the assembled United Nations on Earth-1, a meeting which included representatives from all five Earths. While this was going on, an aura traveled back through time: the Anti-Monitor on his trip to the dawn of time.

After hearing the villains' demands and attempting to crack the barrier through brute force, the heroes asked Wally West to redon his Kid Flash costume and help Golden Age Flash Jay Garrick reconstruct The Flash's cosmic treadmill to breach the barrier and free the other worlds. During the battle, **Aquagirl** was killed by a chemical bath generated by Chemo, and the Golden Age Hawkman was badly injured by Dr. Phosphorus. As the issue ended, Brainiac was the victim of an attack by Psimon, who had remained behind on the spaceship when the other villains had transported to the respective Earths.

Let's do the timewarp again

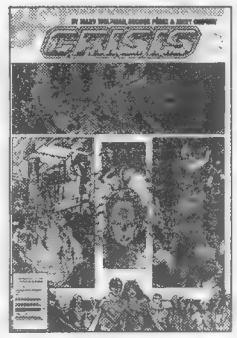
'Crisis' #10. Brainiac avenged his "death" at Psimon's hand by killing the villain, in turn, after he had animated a reconstructed body built out of the living metal of his ship. So many events had been happening "offstage" during *Crisis* that Wolfman set aside the bottom portion of each page of the issue to run "The Monitor Tapes," a summary by Lyla of other events happening on other planets and in other times. As the issue continued, Negative Woman destroyed **Chemo**, Kole turned Black Adam into crystal, and Green Arrow destroyed one of the versions of The Shaggy Man (although later continuity said that, though destroyed, he didn't die) before The Spectre intervened and filled everyone in on The Anti-Monitor's plan to change history at the dawn of time.

Heroes and villains set aside their differences to band together and stop this latest threat, with the heroes going to the dawn of time and the villains going to Oa to stop Krona from completing his experiment. The Superboy of Earth-Prime (introduced in *DC Comics Presents* #87) joined the heroes just before they embarked on their trip and informed them that he was Earth-Prime's last survivor, a belief that must have been his own, since we're all still here.

The villains' mission was stymied by the Oans themselves, while Krona destroyed **Mirror Master**, **The Icicle**, and **Maaldor**.

As the heroes attempted to stop The Anti-Monitor, he absorbed their life energies. He was on the verge of winning by being the hand that Krona would observe at the dawn of time, when The Spectre, drawing on the power of all mystical beings, engaged in a cosmic arm-wrestling match with the villain. As the issue ended, Krona opened his observation window on Oa, and The Anti-Monitor and The Spectre struggled to be the hand that Krona would observe. The universe exploded, and the issue ended on another cliffhanger.

A new Earth dawns

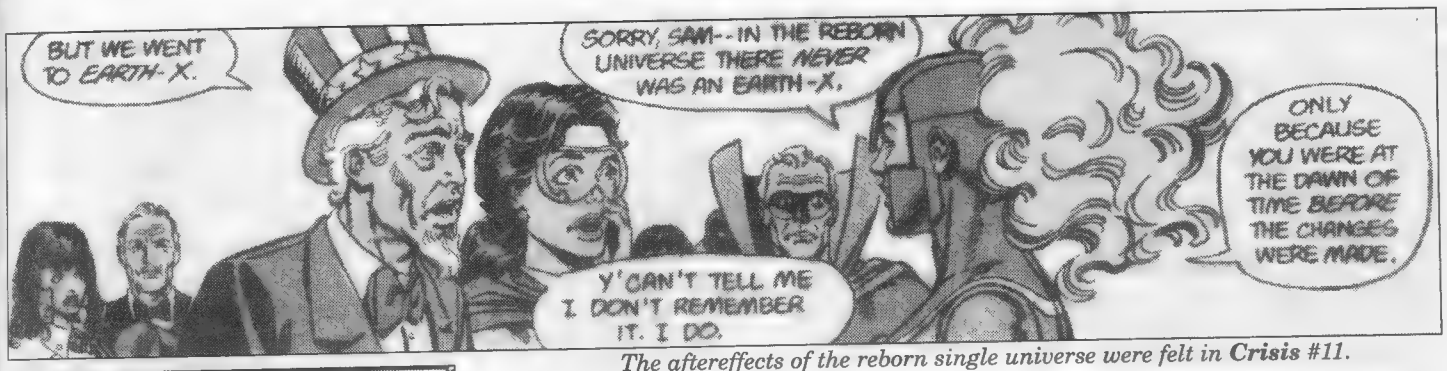


'Crisis' #11. In an homage to *Crisis* #1, #11 opened with a near-repeat of the first issue's first page in which the multiverse was born. This time, only one universe was born and, as Wolfman wrote, "what had been many, became one."

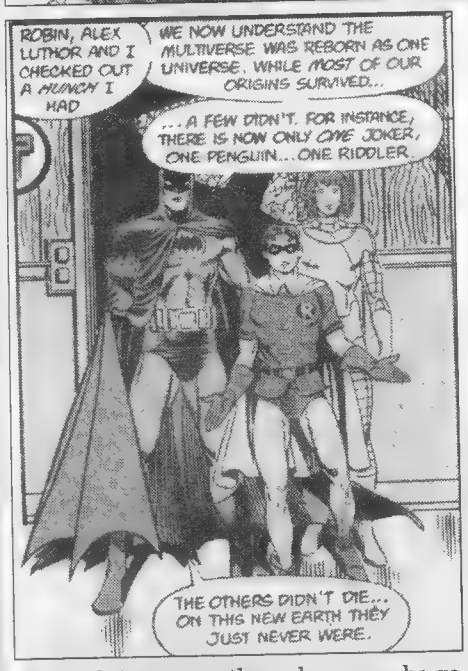
A graying-at-the-temples Clark Kent awoke in his apartment and headed for work at what he thought was *The Daily Star*, where he was the editor, only to discover that he had seated himself at Editor Perry White's desk at *The Daily Planet*. A younger Clark appeared to fix the mix-up and offered to fly with his older double to New York, where the Earths had been merged, in order to send him to Earth-2.

The duo quickly discovered that there was no common area between the two Earths, and, after a visit to the combined Keystone and Central City (respective homes of the Golden Age and Silver Age Flash), they discovered that no one remembered the older Superman, either. A quick run on the cosmic treadmill with Jay Garrick and Kid Flash established that there was only one Earth and that the heroes who had gone back to the

Even though he believed it destroyed, Superboy of Earth-Prime still had his readers, since we were still all here.



The aftereffects of the reborn single universe were felt in ***Crisis*** *#11.*



dawn of time were the only ones who remembered the multiple Earths.

Anyone left behind (including the villains sent on the mission to Oa), if they survived, had forgotten that the Earths had been within a heartbeat of being wiped out forever by The Anti-Monitor. While the heroes were attempting to come to grips with this, a small group of adventurers (Rip Hunter, The Atomic Knight, Animal Man, Captain Comet, Adam Strange, and Dolphin) discovered Brainiac's lifeless ship floating in space.

Other heroes who were no longer remembered by anyone on the new Earth included The Huntress and Robin of Earth-2, who discovered that, not only didn't they "exist," but that the gravesite of their Batman had ceased to be. Harbinger, who had regained her powers in the reformation, provided an explanation of the events of the new universe.

Meanwhile, Deadman and The Phantom Stranger stood watch over The Spectre, who had been rendered comatose by the events of *Crisis* #10. In Las Vegas, a group of detectives, including Harvey Bullock, Jonny Thunder, Angel O'Day, Christopher Chance, and Jonny Double, discovered the remains of **The Angle Man** in hotel room. As the issue approached its conclusion, a fresh group of shadow demons attacked, and the skies grew red again. Amethyst, princess of Gemworld, was stricken blind, and Dr. Fate took her back to her other-dimensional world. At the end of the issue, the remaining Earth was transported into the anti-matter, universe where The Anti-Monitor promised its doom.

The end

• 'Crisis' #12. As the maxi-series' final issue opened, the group of space adventurers beseeched a revived Brainiac to help them save Earth. He took them to Apokolips, where they asked Darkseid for help.

Meanwhile, The Anti-Monitor revealed his frustration with the remaining Earth and its defenders. The Flash's fate was first learned in this speech, and then blackness covered the Earth, a blackness created by all the assembled shadow demons, who then attacked. The battle continued for several pages with quick cuts to battles around the globe and cameos by members of The Global Guardians as well as the last appearance of The Lieutenants Marvel to date. During this battle, a number of defenders, including **Dove**, **Prince Ra-Man**, **Sunburst**, the **Golden Age Green Arrow**, **Lori Lemaris**, the **Golden Age Robin**, **Huntress**, **Kole**, and **The Bug-Eyed Bandit** were killed, with scores more wounded.

While the mystic-powered beings worked together to stop the shadow demons once and for all by binding them in a mystical shell, another task force of heroes was assembled to take the battle to The Anti-Monitor. As they were being transported to the moon of Qward, Kid Flash joined the group and discovered The Flash's empty costume in the ruins. After battling and apparently defeating The Anti-Monitor, the heroes returned the Earth to the positive-matter universe through a dimensional rift created by Alexander Luthor.

But The Anti-Monitor wasn't done yet. He absorbed the collected shadow demons and came after the heroes as they were fleeing through Luthor's rift, blasting Psycho Pirate, Firestorm, and Kid Flash on the surface of Qward and then attacked Wonder Woman of Earth-1 as she reached the edge of the rift. As the rift was closing, Firestorm took the Pirate and Kid Flash back to the positive-matter universe. The Golden Age Superman sent the unconscious Superman of Earth-1 and Lady Quark back with the Superboy of Earth-Prime.

As he faced the old hero, The Anti-Monitor suddenly found his power waning, as the shadow demons he'd absorbed, who'd been altered by the sorcerers, destroyed him from the inside. Superboy looked back, as the old Superman kept up his attack. The lad realized that the hero couldn't defeat The Anti-Monitor alone, so he hurled Superman of Earth-1 and Lady Quark through the rift and joined his new ally.

As the two Kryptonians battled The Anti-Monitor, with Alex Luthor looking on, Luthor felt a surge of power flowing through him. It was Darkseid using the youth as a conduit to peer into the anti-matter universe and observe the action. Finally, Darkseid unleashed a burst of energy through Luthor to drive **The Anti-Monitor** into the heart of a star, where, instead of being destroyed, he was turned into a fireball that Superman had to dispatch with one final all-out blow, causing the sun to implode, sending out waves of destructive force that even the two heroes couldn't outrun.

Alexander Luthor opened a new rift to an "other place" from which Lois Lane Kent of Earth-2 emerged, having been safely kept there, while the universe reformed at the dawn of time. Superman, Superboy, Lois, and Alexander went to that dimension where they still are today.

Harbinger filled in details of what had happened to both Wonder Women. (The Earth-1 heroine reverted back to the clay from which she had been formed, while the Earth-2 heroine and her husband, Steve Trevor, were taken to Mt. Olympus by the gods, where they would live out their days.) She told of Kid Flash's recovery from a disease that had been killing him every time he used his super-speed and of his resolution to honor the memory of his fallen mentor as the new Flash. She described the fate of Kamandi in the reformed universe. (Kamandi would become Tommy Tomorrow after being discovered in Command D by General Horatio Tomorrow.) Harbinger was joined by Pariah and Lady Quark, who invited her to investigate their new world together.

The final page revealed that The Psycho Pirate was the only participant in the events of *Crisis* who would continue to remember the multiple Earths long after the other participants had pushed them from their memories.

Earth-2's Superman was reunited with the love of his life in ***Crisis*** *#12.*

New beginnings bring new crises

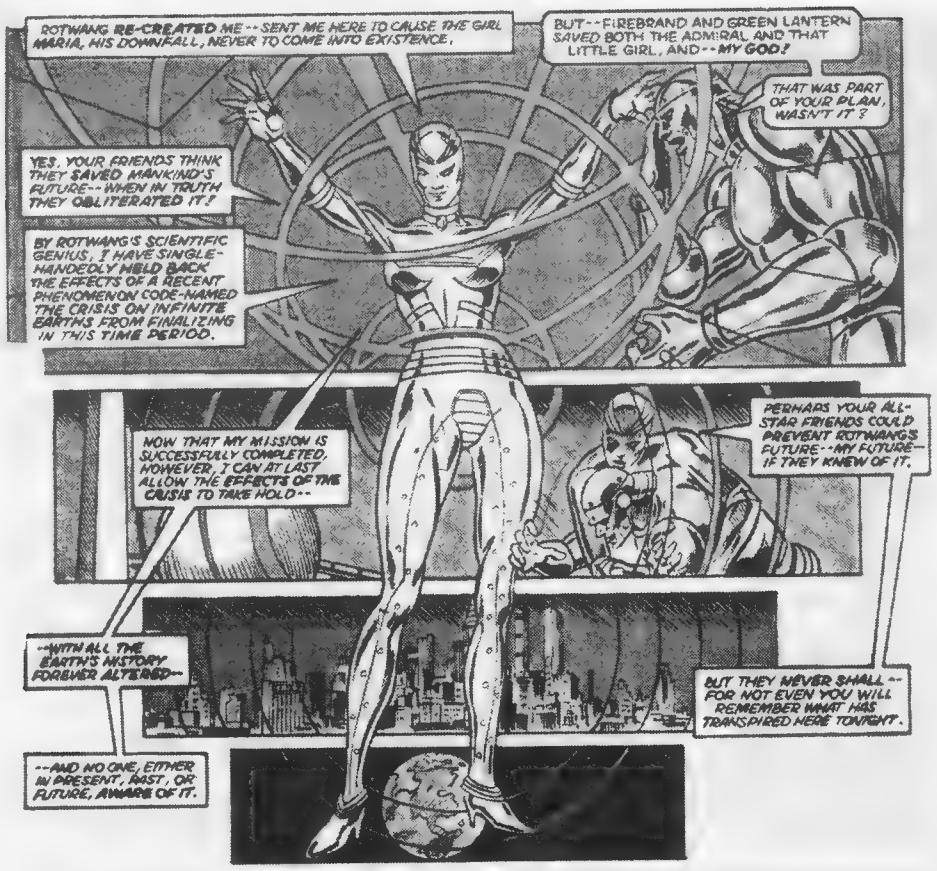
Crisis not only did away with the multiple Earths, it laid the groundwork for the revamping of several DC heroes, most notably Superman and Wonder Woman, as well as the introduction of new characters and new versions of characters. However, the new setting also led to some problems.

W could be done with The Justice Society of America and The All-Star Squadron — with the removal of the Golden Age Superman, Batman, Robin, Wonder Woman, Aquaman, and Green Arrow? This not only affected the origins and line-ups of those teams, but also the origins of Infinity, Inc. It had been a group of younger heroes, offspring and protegés of members of The Justice Society, most notably Fury, whose mother had been the Golden Age Wonder Woman.

That problem was quickly solved by Brainwave Jr., who removed Fury's memories of her mother and past until a new origin was created for the heroine in which her mother was the Golden Age Fury (a character that hadn't existed before *Crisis*).

The Justice Society of America was sent to fight Ragnarok for eternity in *The Last Days of the Justice Society Special*, a 1986 one-shot that appeared shortly after *Crisis*. Only Dr. Fate, The Star-Spangled Kid, and Power Girl returned from that mission, leaving their fellow heroes behind, presumably forever.

Roy Thomas, who was writing *All-Star Squadron* and *Infinity, Inc.* at the time, told ***CBG*** that he'd been approached when *Crisis* was still in the planning stages and was told that his wishes would be adhered to with regard to the Golden Age Superman, Batman, and Wonder Woman, otherwise known as The Big



Why doesn't anyone except The Psycho Pirate remember ***Crisis****? Perhaps these panels from* ***All-Star Squadron*** *#60, featuring Mekanique and Robotman, can explain.*

Three.

"My only criterion was to be able to use The Big Three post-*Crisis*," he said. "I wouldn't have used them any more than I already was in *All-Star Squadron* but I wanted to have them available."

During the latter stages of *Crisis*, Thomas was told that The Big Three would *not* be available to him and he said he could have worked with that. "There was no reason not to do *All-Star Squadron*, even without The Big Three," he said.

He learned of the loss of the use of those characters while on vacation in the United Kingdom. But then, after making plans for future issues, Thomas was informed that he *also* couldn't use the Golden Age Aquaman, whom he had just introduced in *All-Star Squadron*, and that he wasn't to feature the Golden Age Flash or Green Lantern on the cover of *Infinity, Inc.*

These additional restrictions led to Thomas' concurrence with Managing Editor Dick Giordano's decision to stop that series of *All-Star Squadron* and resume with a new series in which he could introduce characters to take the place of those he was no longer able to use. As the first issues of *Young All-Stars* were hitting the stands, Thomas said he learned that he would be unable to use the Golden Age Green Arrow, so that character's attributes were transferred to The Huntress, who was destined to become an enemy of Wildcat.

"It was a lot of fun to make up new versions of the characters," Thomas said. "It would have been neat to keep them around for the Big Three to meet."

Thomas' theory for the creation of Iron Munro, Fury, and Flying Fox (the "replacements" for Superman, Wonder Woman, and Batman, respectively) was that the "heroic energy" that led to the creation of The Big Three was still in existence and it needed to find a new outlet. "It came about naturally," he said. "I was able to link *Young All-Stars* with *All-Star Squadron* and resume right from where we had left off." He added that he would love to bring the characters back and would also like to work on a Justice Society series, "but not one set in the modern-day world, unless they were young guys again in the modern-day world."

History is rewritten

As mentioned earlier, although the plan for *Crisis* was to have the story run 10 issues, with a two-issue *History of the DC Universe* rounding out the 12 issues, the two issues eventually became a stand-alone set published late in the summer of 1986.

New continuity problems began to crop up almost as soon as *Crisis* was done, when John Byrne overhauled the legend of Superman in the six-issue biweekly mini-series *Man of Steel* during the summer of 1986. Superman's new origin story did not involve adventures as Superboy and left fans of The Legion of Super-Heroes wondering where that 30th century team would draw its inspiration from.

The answer came the next year in a four-part story that crossed over from *Legion of Super-Heroes* #37 and #38 to *Action Comics* #591 and *Superman* #8. The Time Trapper had created a pocket universe out of a second of time in which he had created his own version of Earth with a Superboy, Krypto, and all the other elements of the classic Superman mythos. He then protected that universe from The Anti-Monitor, avoiding the events of *Crisis*.

The Legion discovered that all the time they thought they had been traveling back to the main DC universe, they had been shunted into the pocket universe. The pocket universe's **Superboy** gave his life in a battle to preserve the dimension, and it would later be the birthplace of Matrix, the current Supergirl.

New crossovers made new creations

For the next several years, DC produced annual inter-company crossover events, beginning with *Legends* in late 1986 and early 1987, which would lead to the creation of a new Justice League.

In 1988 came *Millennium*, an eight-issue weekly mini-series which led to the creation of The New Guardians.

1989 saw the release of the three-issue *Invasion!* mini-series which created a number of new heroes, while altering the powers of several others.

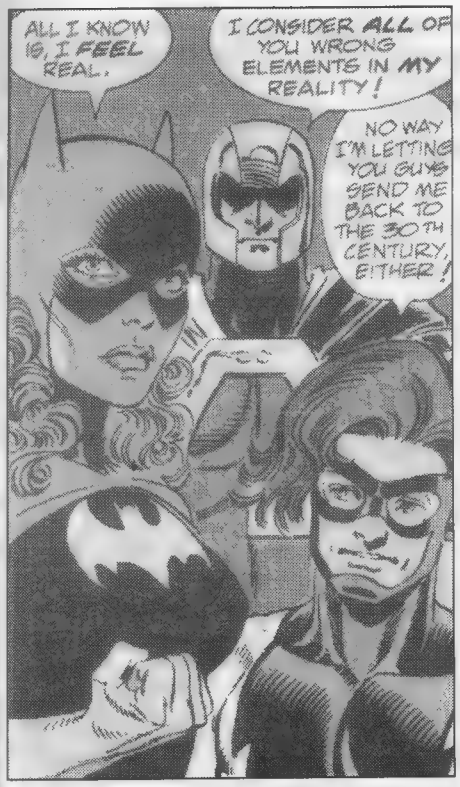
1991's crossover in the DC Annuals, "Armageddon 2001," revealed a possible future for the DC universe, which laid the groundwork for 1994's *Zero Hour*, with the introduction of The Team Titans, Waverider, and The Linear Men.

While the first group was a gathering of young super-heroes who opposed the rule of Monarch (a despotic overlord), Waverider and The Linear Men were beings who oversaw the flow of time and monitored for aberrations in the timestream. If a problem was detected, one or more agents were dispatched to correct it and put time on its proper course.

An additional mini-series in 1992, *Armageddon: Inferno*, returned The Justice Society from limbo, when Waverider was able to suspend their unending battle temporarily and substitute another group of fighters from a mystical dimension for The JSA, allowing them to return to Earth.

The "Zero Hour" effect had other factors in its creation. In addition to correct-

Mekanique's actions in ***All-Star Squadron*** *#60 not only altered history, but also this group photograph. Green Arrow and Speedy (second and third from left in the second row) were removed from Golden Age continuity later.*



Zero Hour *brought back Batgirl, at least for a while.*

ing anomalies that hadn't been addressed or had been caused by the events of *Crisis* and its aftermath, it allowed Green Lantern Hal Jordan to take center stage one more time as Parallax, a villain intent on remaking the universe the way he thought it should be.

Part of his plan included the restoration of Coast City (his hometown that had been destroyed by the despotic alien Mongul) and the restoration of The Green Lantern Corps (whom he, as Jordan, had wiped out in a bid for the power to restore Coast City earlier).

By the end of the five-issue mini-series, written and drawn by Dan Jurgens, the DC universe's timeline was streamlined, the **Golden Age Atom**, **Hourman**, and **Dr. Mid-Nite** were dead, and the Golden Age Starman had passed on his gravity rod to his sons.

As part of the crossover, alternate realities intersected with the "real" DC universe, resulting, among other things, in a new version of Batgirl and a super-powered Roman known as Alpha Centurion.

According to Jurgens, the reason several members of the Justice Society were killed in "Zero Hour" was that the DC universe had aged between *Crisis* to "Zero Hour."

"Oliver Queen and Hal Jordan had each had several birthdays," Jurgens said. "And they were numbered. 'This is your 44th birthday,' 'This is your 45th,' and so on, and these guys were approaching 50.

"I have a high regard for The JSA, but the group is forever identified with World War II, and, by this point in time, some of its members had to be in their 80s and 90s. It stretches credibility to have them young and vital, so it was decided to have time catch up with them."

One of Jurgens' proposals for "Zero Hour" was to put The JSA on another Earth where "it would always be 1942 and they would be young and vital," he said. The plan was later dropped in favor of what eventually saw print.

As far as other plans that didn't make it into the series, Jurgens said he doesn't like "to talk about things that don't see print" but he did mention that he enjoyed several individual character bits, and his fondest wish would have been for "a whole and hearty Batgirl" to survive the mini-series' end.

"Any project is a compromise," Jurgens added, "and I was limited to those five issues. While the problem-solving was fun, I didn't have enough pages to tell my story completely."

Whoomp! Here it is!

And that's where the DC universe stands, as the millennium approaches.

Will the events of *Crisis* and "Zero Hour" have ramifications in the future?

Will the future portrayed in "Armageddon 2001" come to pass?

These are questions no one is willing to answer for now. Maybe the turn of the century will find Lois, Superman of Earth-2, Alexander Luthor, and Superboy of Earth-Prime growing tired of Nirvana and deciding to kick some Vertigo butt when they find out about *that* universe.

Or maybe, just maybe —

Play with it, why don't you?

So who remembers what went before?

Carlin

As far as the current DC universe goes and who remembers *Crisis* and that mythos, Executive Editor Mike Carlin said, "*Crisis* happened. If you lived through it, you didn't even notice and, due to the reorganization of the DC universe at the dawn of time, you don't remember it now. The only one who remembers the pre-*Crisis* DC universe is Psycho Pirate." (He added that this sort of continuity question is among his favorites.)

Asked if Elseworlds stories take place on alternate Earths, leading to a multiverse again, Carlin said with an evil chuckle that those stories "exist entirely separate from the mainstream DC universe, *so far*."

DC is preparing to collect the 12 issues of *Crisis* in a deluxe hardcover collection. Why did it take so long? Carlin pointed out that there hadn't been many collections in 1986, when *Crisis* wrapped up.

"Now, however, the marketplace can bear the cost. "Time makes for a wider audience," he said. "Many collectors want everything in one place and can't or won't get back issues."

He added that the new collection is recolored and reseparated, using techniques not available when the original series was published.

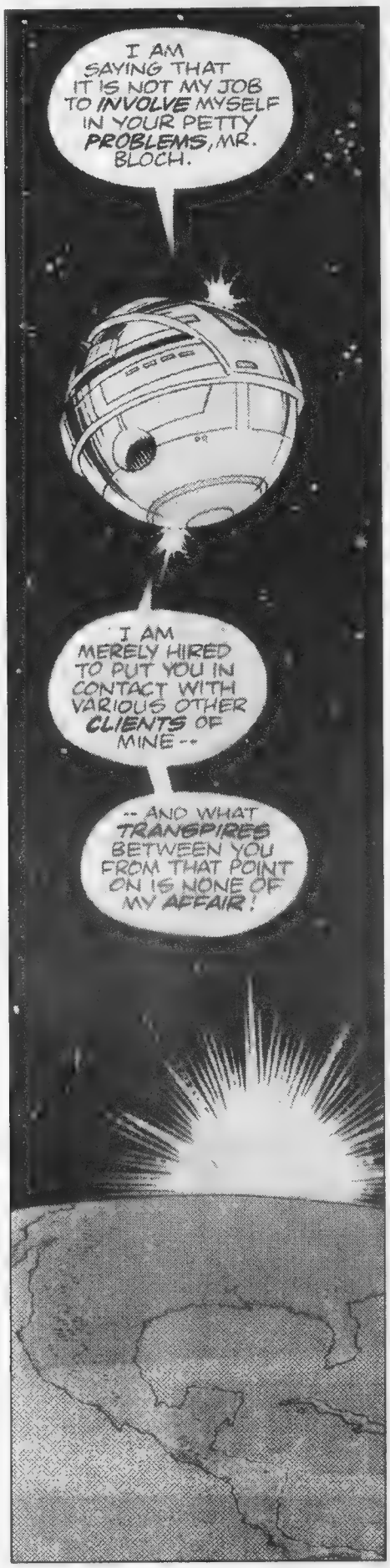
"We had to reconstruct some of the art due to the loss of overlays," he said. "With the new technology, fans are getting something for their money."

Universes and characters aren't the only things that have altered. Just look at how working on the ***Crisis*** *hardcover has changed painter Alex Ross.*

George Pérez' pencilled art for the dustjacket of DC's ***Crisis on Infinite Earths*** *hardcover will be inked and painted by Ross.*

WOLFMAN
(From Page 46)

Characters like Supergirl were killed to help the flagship character. Most of the others came from editors and the office and were decided in that fashion. One character I argued off the list was Hawkman. The name showed up on the hit list, and I didn't think he should die, so I argued and kept him off."



One death Wolfman didn't want on his hands was that of Superman. However, the end of the series left him with two Supermen and a Superboy. While he did send them (along with Superman of Earth-2's wife, Lois Lane) through a shimmering portal, Wolfman contends that he didn't kill them. "They went to a better place," Wolfman said. "I would have absolutely refused to kill a Superman or Superboy, if it had come down to it, which it didn't. Whatever the fate of everyone else, Superman was the first, he was the most special, he is the character I love more than any other character — especially that version of Superman, from the '30s and '40s. There is no way that he deserved anything less than to go to heaven, and that is essentially where we sent them, without killing them."

According to Wolfman, the deaths that filled the pages of *Crisis* were a necessary part of the story, showing that the heroes never gave up despite tremendous personal loss. "The story of the *Crisis* is endless failure," Wolfman said. "The villain was that strong. What I was setting up was that everything the heroes did — they always failed at it. The Monitor was killed, the heroes failed repeatedly to stop the Anti-Monitor, failure, failure, failure.

"To me, the idea of the heroic ideal is that you persevere, no matter how many times you fail. So it was vital to me to show that nothing stops a hero. They don't bemoan their fate, they don't cry about what's happening to them, they shake off the wounds and go right back into battle. That was the clearest with the last story in issue #12, where the Anti-Monitor came back almost endlessly, and they kept going after him no matter how tired they were."

Funny, I don't feel dead

Perhaps one of the more creepy "Earth-deaths' in the maxi-series came when Earth-Prime met its demise. Until that point, Earth-Prime was "our" Earth, the home to Julie Schwartz, Curt Swan, and other comics creators, a place where Superman could cross over to meet his creators. For Wolfman, it was just another Earth to wipe out.

"The destruction of Earth-Prime was just me being an anal-retentive fanboy," Wolfman said. "I didn't believe in Earth-Prime and would not believe that Earth-Prime was our world. By that point in DC continuity, some powerful characters had already popped up on Earth-Prime [anyone remember Ultraa?], which to me made it just another Earth. What I was doing from that point on was saying that, in essence, comics are all stories you read. We believe in them because the characters are good and we care about them, but they are not real. So don't start saying that on our world, our actual Earth, there are super-heroes, because there are none."

"I would have absolutely refused to kill a Superman or Superboy, if it had come down to it."

— Marv Wolfman

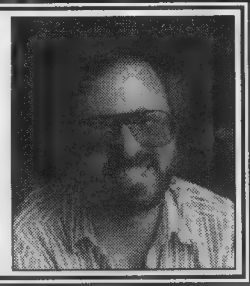


Photo © 1990 M.C. Valada

The "real" ending

With any major, industry-affecting event, stories always surface later about how things were *meant* to be done or about variant endings that were nixed at the last minute. *Crisis* is no different, and rumors over the years have actually given birth to a comic-book urban legend: The ending printed in *Crisis* #12 wasn't the original one Wolfman had intended. Unlike many urban legends, however, this one is true. Originally, the story of *Crisis* was only supposed to run 10 issues, while #11 and #12 would have been the history of the DC universe. As the series progressed, it became clear to Wolfman that the story needed all 12 issues, so *History of the DC Universe* became its own prestige format mini-series.

And that's not all that was changed. "In my original ending of *Crisis*, none of the heroes remembered anything," Wolfman said. "My belief was that, if we were going to recreate the universe from scratch, you didn't want to be hampered by past continuity. You wanted to start all over again.

"My original pitch was on two levels: One, all the heroes would completely forget that *Crisis* ever happened, and, two, in the last issue of the series, the world, the entire universe would be reborn. Following that, in January 1986, all DC comics would have been numbered #1, and we would have started with an all-new origin issue. If you wanted to bring back characters, you could, or you could start fresh. But, for all intents and purposes, the DC universe would begin anew without any of the continuity problems."

The pitch was a double whammy for Wolfman. First, *Crisis* would celebrate the 50th anniversary of the DC universe and would give the current generation its own heroes, a belief Wolfman strongly believed in. "The same way that my generation got Barry Allen and Hal Jordan, this generation should've been allowed to have its own Flash, Batman, and Green Lantern," Wolfman said.

"The original characters had lasted far longer than anyone had expected, and this would have allowed people to keep the heroes they wanted to or start from scratch, so you wouldn't have to be stuck with a lot of older ideas that might not have fit with what you wanted to do at that time."

The second part of the *Crisis*-relaunch mission was aimed directly across town at DC's Marvelous competition. 1986 happened to be Marvel's 25th Anniversary, and a flood of #1s, Wolfman figured, would take the wind out of Marvel's anniversary-induced sales. But Wolfman's memory-scrub and relaunch plan was nixed in favor of the ending seen in #12. Wolfman said he was disappointed.

"As it turned out, Marvel didn't really do anything big for its 25th anniversary, so that really didn't matter," Wolfman added. "The problem that happened with the relaunch plan was that, about halfway through the series, there was an editorial meeting, and the editors argued that, if the heroes forgot the *Crisis*, it would invalidate the entire story."

The argument didn't sit well with

Green Lantern's Crisis

One of the major subplots of *Crisis* involved the Guardians of the Universe and their group of galaxy patrollers, the Green Lantern Corps. Hal Jordan had quit as a Green Lantern in the months leading up to *Crisis*, but as universal armageddon threatened, he attempted to regain his power ring. Replacement GL Guy Gardner was restored to full health after being comatose for many years, and a number of other changes occurred in the ongoing *Green Lantern* series, including:

- Out of the 36 existing Guardians, only 22 survived at the end.
- Out of 3,600 Green Lanterns, 912 were killed.

Killed during *Crisis* in *Green Lantern* #197:

- Eddore of sector 1419
- Zborra of an unrevealed sector
- Dalor of the planet Timron and sector 2813

Killed during *Crisis* in *Green Lantern* #198:

- Tomar Re of the Planet Xudar and sector 2813 (one of the three Green Lantern Corps Honor Guards killed by Goldface during a battle on the moon in the anti-matter universe of Qward)
- Xax of the planet Xaos
- Gk'D Wykla of sector 6 was mentioned as dead in *GL*#199.

— Marc Patten

Wolfman. "I kept saying that our heroes don't buy the comics; our readers do; and our readers will remember the *Crisis*, so it didn't matter if the heroes remembered it or not. The readers, I argued, would understand the concept of the conclusion of one set of stories and the moving on from the new start.

"In the end, I was overruled, so I had to change the ending so that, instead of nobody going back to the end of time when the universe was reborn, *all* of the heroes went back, so they existed before the universe was created and they were allowed to remember. I absolutely disagreed with that. Some time in October 1985, Dick Giordano [DC's Editor in Chief at the time] came up to me and said that he thought they had made a mistake by making that change and having everybody remember the pre-*Crisis* universe, and my original ending should have been left alone. But it was done, and, unfortunately because of that, the next five years of continuity were so complex because there were too many conflicting memories."

However, despite the change of his original ending, Wolfman maintained that *Crisis* did what it was supposed to do: streamline and strengthen the DC universe and attract readers who before then might have never picked up a DC comic book. Now, instead of being full of endless universes, the DC universe had only one universe, easily understandable to the DC newcomer.

History has shown that Wolfman's vision of a streamlined DC universe attracting readers was true. While such flagship characters as Superman, Batman, and Wonder Woman had their histories relaunched by such prestigious creators as Byrne, Miller, and Pérez, many current DC fans trace their new or renewed interest in DC to *Crisis*, a revolutionary series for its time that set the tone for the DC universe (and company-wide crossovers) for years to come.

Now, 13 years after the fact with a deluxe reprint on the horizon, many fans have found themselves thinking about *Crisis* again, even re-reading it and finding it still carries an emotional punch. Among those who have recently returned to the page of *Crisis* is Wolfman himself, reading the series for the first time. He didn't have time to read the issues as they came out in 1985, and didn't want to see it again, once it was finished.

So how did *Crisis*' daddy find the series? "I couldn't understand the story," Wolfman confessed, chuckling. "It was far too complex for me, because I had forgotten all the continuity of 1985. While it may sound silly, you have to put me back in 1985 and remember that, not only was I writing *Crisis*, I was writing four other titles and editing full-time at DC. *Crisis* was the most nightmarish project of all time. I should have done that and nothing else. It was absolutely the hardest thing that I ever worked on and I just didn't want to know from super-heroes ever again once it was finished."

In addition to using nearly every DC character, Wolfman (or perhaps it was artist George Pérez?) snuck in at least one character from another comics universe. Check out the photographer between Lois Lane and Superman from ***Crisis*** *#5. Do you suppose he had his wheatcakes that morning before beginning his assignment?*

At a comics convention, "Supergirl" avenged her death at the hands of Wolfman. For more on the Maid of Steel, see photo provider Peter David's column on Page 122.

While Wolfman confessed he was burned out by the end of *Crisis*, during the series, he was in his prime as a creator. "We knew what we were doing and, while we were doing it, we absolutely loved it," Wolfman said. "We knew we were doing something big. We knew from Day One this was going to change the DC universe forever. Otherwise we would have done it back in 1982 and we wouldn't have bothered to do all the research. DC knew it, too; otherwise it wouldn't have bothered to pay to have someone read comic books and make notes. I knew that this potentially could be the biggest thing DC ever had done, if not the biggest thing the comics industry had ever seen."

Wolfman's regrets

The political battles long over, the story long concluded, and its impact still resonating through the DC universe, Wolfman doesn't look back at *Crisis* and second-guess the story. "Story-wise, I think the story works," he said. "It had been on my mind and refined for a long time, so I was very happy with the concept of the story.

"If anything, I would have tried to fix the dialogue and cut some back. I was quite verbose in those days. Ultimately, I would have liked to have spent a little more time on the writing near the end, when the issues got a little late and I had to write them faster. Also, I would have made sure every 't' was crossed and every 'i' was dotted.

"But, by and large, *Crisis* as a story still works for me. The only change I would have made at the time, would've been to fight even harder to make sure that everyone forgot about the *Crisis* or just would have ignored everybody and done it despite what they said."

And by the way, Wolfman said he isn't threatened at all by stories of the introduction of DC's Hypertime, a feature of the DC universe created by Grant Morrison in "One Million" and "The Kingdom" event week that will return the multiple Earths, including all previous Earths, as well as every Earth seen in an Elseworlds title or event such as "Tangent."

"Some author, I wish I could remember who it was, when told that the movie version of his book had destroyed his book, pointed to his bookshelf and said, 'No, my book is still there. It's in fine shape.' " Wolfman said. "Every generation has a right to change its characters, to progress its characters and move them along and make them relevant to their generation. I would like to think and to hope that the thinking on 'One Million' and 'The Kingdom' is a good move and will help DC for the next X number of years, until the next generation of readers comes along.

"When it comes down to it, anything that DC may do doesn't affect what I've done with *Crisis*. What I did still exists and is being reprinted in an even better format. If DC's doing a good story, and the readers really like what's being done, sight unseen, it'll get the same type of treatment. It will be remembered and thought of as something special, and readers of the future will be thinking as kindly about it as they do of *Crisis*. For better or worse, comics have to evolve, and comics *do* evolve."

Didja know?

In *Crisis on Infinite Earths* #10, Page 8, Panel 3, when George Pérez was looking for characters to draw, he took a villain from an issue of *The Flash* called The Molder. The Molder was actually The Elongated Man in disguise, influenced by a bad batch of gingold, so he didn't actually exist as a separate character.

— Marc Patten

Playing Mantis revives Captain Action

Company plans to expand toy, model line for '99

Playing Mantis has begun to issue replicas of the Captain Action toys with the release of Captain Action and his arch-nemesis Dr. Evil. The 12″ figures will be joined by The Lone Ranger and Tonto in November and Flash Gordon and Ming the Merciless early next year. The company's plans call for the release of additional characters every other month throughout the rest of 1999 and beyond.

Captain Action's packaging features art by Carmine Infantino, and each character comes with costume, mask, and accessories. The packaging has been designed to display the figure without removing it from the box but allows the option of removing the figure without damaging the box.

Playing Mantis has also introduced such other retro lines as Polar Lights, which manufactures replicas of model kits from the '60s and '70s including King Kong's Thronester, Mummy's Chariot, Frankenstein's Flivver, Wolfman's Wagon, The Creature from the Black Lagoon, and The Green Hornet's Black Beauty.

The Polar Lights line is also offering 10″ models based on the rock group Kiss' *Destroyer* album. The styrene plastic model kits each feature one member of the band, a rock-like base to mount the member on, and a diorama sized to the original album cover.

Carmine Infantino provided art for the new Captain Action packages.

The diorama is only available in kits sold in hobby shops. The Paul Stanley kit is scheduled to ship in November, followed by Peter Criss in December, Ace Frehley in January, and Gene Simmons in February.

Playing Mantis' other retro line, Johnny Lightning, has not only issued replicas of the original toy cars from the '60s and '70s, but is expanding the line with Hollywood on Wheels, a series of cars based on movies and TV shows including *The Monkees, The Blues Brothers, The Partridge Family, Dragnet, Back to the Future, The Andy Griffith Show,* and *Starsky & Hutch.* In addition, Cartoon Network Cars, a series of vehicles based on shows airing on the cable network, are also available. Four cars are scheduled: Dick Dastardly's Mean Machine and Penelope Pitstop's Compact Pussycat from *Wacky Races*, Barney Rubble's Sports Car from *The Flintstones*, and Speed Buggy from the show of the same name.

The Hollywood on Wheels series cars are each packaged with a trading card featuring a still from the respective movie or TV show, while the Cartoon Network Cars are packaged with a card featuring cel art from the respective show.

Top: Cartoon Network Cars are coming your way from Playing Mantis' Johnny Lightning Line. Bottom: Now you can have your own time-traveling Delorean, thanks to the Hollywood on Wheels line. Right: Polar Lights is resurrecting old model kits like King Kong's Thronester.

These 10″ models from Playing Mantis' Polar Lights line are based on the rock group's ***Destroyer*** *album cover.*

Bowen Designs' latest limited-edition Marvel sculpture features Daredevil. Randy Bowen sculpted two versions from a design by Joe Quesada and Jimmy Palmiotti. The red-costume Daredevil will be limited to 4,000 pieces; the red-and-yellow original-costume version will be limited to the initial orders received. Both versions have a suggested retail price of $150 and are tentatively slated for December or January release.

A Very Special 'Crisis' Special

By Matt Brady

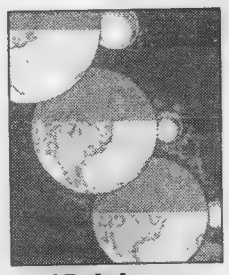
Marv Wolfman thought the last *Crisis* story had been told. He was wrong — unbeknownst to him, there was one left.

"Bob Greenberger mentioned the idea of doing another *Crisis* story to Mike Carlin, when it became known that DC was going to reprint *Crisis* in hardcover," Wolfman said. "The two of them called me and asked if I would be interested in telling an untold *Crisis* story as a special issue.

"My first reaction was no.

"*Crisis* was such a pain and in many ways both helped and destroyed me. After it, I really had nothing to say about super-heroes."

But the idea wouldn't leave Wolfman alone. "The more I thought about it, the more I remembered stuff that I'd wanted to do in the original, so I told them if I could come up with a story I'd consider it. So I worked on it for a week or two, going back to the original thinking — read *Crisis* for the first time — and finally came up with this story."



'Crisis on Infinite Earths': The Additions

Which way did they go?

While *Legends of the DC Universe: Crisis on Infinite Earths* addresses such slight plot jumps as where The Flash went after he disappeared in *Crisis* #3 and where Pariah took Lady Quark after he rescued her from Earth-6 in *Crisis* #4, the main thrust of the story is the heroes of the DC universe seeing what happens if they fail.

"The way *Crisis* worked, by the time our heroes found out about The Crisis, they were left with only those last few Earths," Wolfman said. "There was nothing for them to try to save. I wanted a story where they saw the ramifications of what was going to happen. That's the way I always structure my stories: You want to see what the problem is, so the heroes have an idea of what they're fighting. In *Crisis*, we didn't have a chance to do that because of the way the story was structured. So now, the heroes who were in the *Crisis* by #4 do get to go to a doppleganger universe which is ultimately destroyed."

Like all other pre-*Crisis* earths, the new Earth-D, as Wolfman dubbed it, is similar to Earth-1, but with a socially conscious twist. "All the characters are slightly different," Wolfman explained. "There's a Superman and a Batman and all of those, but they're different ethnic races and sexes, which reflects how I pictured the 'new' DC universe that would've existed, if *Crisis* had ended the way I had originally intended. If we had done what we were talking about and began the DC universe over again in 1986, it's very possible we would have created a lot of different ethnic heroes, because the world had changed, and not all the heroes were white-bread any more."

While action is the name of the game in the special that spotlights The Flash and Supergirl, Wolfman assured readers that the story is really about the characters. "It's not a 'will they save the world or not?' story," he said. "We know that as a foregone conclusion, so it's an absolutely 100% character-based story."

Ryan's reaction

With the story set, the unenviable task of finding an artist began. Enter Poor Sucker, er, Paul Ryan. "Mike Carlin called and asked if I was game to work on a special project," Ryan said. "I said sure. He said it was 54 pages. I said no problem. He said they needed it in a month and half, I said no problem again. He said it had a lot of characters, I said OK. Then he then told me it was *Crisis on Infinite Earths*, and I waited for the punchline."

After Barry Allen (Flash of Earth-1) meets his counterpart on Earth-D, the two race to Earth-D's JLA headquarters (above), where they meet some "familiar" folks (below).

As Carlin filled Ryan in on the details of the project, Ryan said he got more excited about it and accepted the job on the spot. However, as he considered the job, he knew that, even with the month and a half limit, he'd have serious trouble fitting the multitudes of characters into the multitudes of panels to keep the Pérez feel of the original series. "I held my breath and asked Marv if he wanted me to go crazy along the lines of George's style," Ryan said. "Marv told me that the abundance of characters in the series was all George. The plot Marv gave me was exactly the same type of plot he gave George, originally. It's just that George is a great fan of all these characters, so for him it was just fun and games to put as many characters into the page as possible. For me it was a short deadline. In some ways, I tried to put more panels in than I normally do to give it that Pérez flavor, but you won't see 12 panels per page."

Rather than being bound into the upcoming *Crisis* hardcover, which would have popped the price over $150, the final project ships this December inked by Bob McLeod and with a cover by Glen Orbik.

Ultimately, Wolfman was a little hesitant about revisiting his past. Acknowledging that comic-book readers have changed, comics have changed, and, most important, *he* has changed in the past 13 years, Wolfman said he is confident he was able to write with his 1985 mind. "I think old-time fans will like it and I'm hoping I wrote it in a style so that new readers who never read the *Crisis* will understand it," he said.

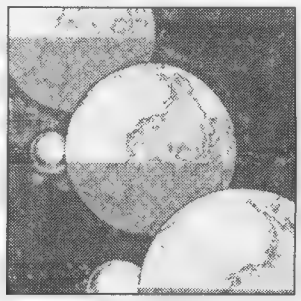
"They may not understand who all the heroes are, but I try to eliminate and explain very carefully who everyone is within context — and why the *Crisis* is important. All in all, I think it's a very strong story and I'm incredibly happy with it."

Barry travels to Earth-1 and brings his JLA to help Earth-D.

Dear Mr. Silver Age,

Remember all those Silver Age characters who died in ***Crisis****? Key characters like Flash, Supergirl, Lori Lemaris, Huntress, Mirror Master, Dove, The Crime Syndicate, and Chemo? They're all back! It seems like every single character or costume has been revived from what was supposed to be such a big-deal, permanent event. I hate when that happens! Is there any Silver Age character who died in* ***Crisis*** *who's still dead?*

Norman O.
New York City



Crisis on Infinite Earths: The dead

"Offing people like Flash and Supergirl just ensured they kept our attention along the way."
— Craig Shutt

Chemo hawked up a big wad of toxic spit and hit Tula in ***Crisis*** *#9 (Dec 85), and we all had to say bye-bye to Aquagirl in the next issue.*

Mr. Silver Age says: There aren't too darn many, Norm. But keep in mind: *Crisis* wasn't designed to clean out Silver Age characters. It mostly aimed to bring everyone together onto one big, happy, smiling Earth and wipe out all those extra Supermen, Wonder Women, Robins, and such. (The Earth-2 Batman by then was already taking a dirt nap.)

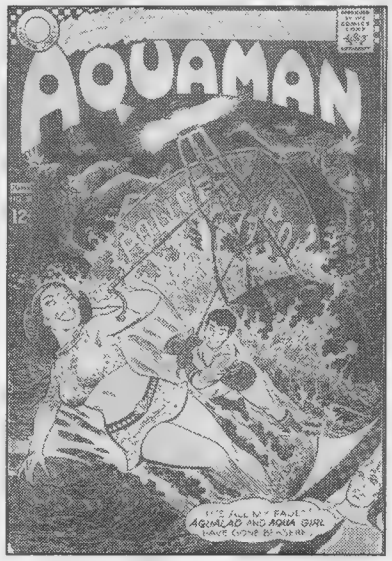
Offing people like Flash and Supergirl just ensured they kept our attention along the way. (Although Supergirl's entire existence was erased within a few months, when Superman rebooted, in a move that had nothing to do with *Crisis*. It made her big *Crisis* moment lose a bit of its dramatic importance and left just a trace of bitterness in the ol' Silver Age mouth, since it wasn't long before another Supergirl appeared, whose origin today is about as murky as Kara's was crystal clear and fun, even if Kara would have spoiled that big-deal Last Son of Krypton thing that never comes up these days, anyway. But I seem to have digressed.)

No, I can think of only two even pretty-minor Silver Age characters who bit the dust in *Crisis* and haven't been revived in some fashion (at least at this moment). They are Tula the Aquagirl, who's been alluded to in *Aquaman* but hasn't actually shown up, and Prince Ra-Man, aka Mark Merlin, star of the mid-1960s *House of Secrets*. A pretty impressive duo, isn't it?

Teen-age Tula turns heads

Tula first swam into view in *Aquaman* #33 (May-Jun 67) in a story called, "Aqualad's Deep-Six Chick!" Only in the Silver Age could you find a title like that. (And isn't "Deep Six" slang for disposing of something? DC's hipster talk was bad enough when it was just goofy. The last thing it needed to do was add confusion! But I digress again.)

Tula and Ra-Man: Dead as they want to be



Tula the Aquagirl burst onto the soppy scene in ***Aquaman*** *#33 (Jun 67), to the delight of Aqualad and Nick Cardy art fans everywhere.*

Our story kicked off with Aqualad bummed out because Aquaman was showing a definite preference for hanging out with his luscious wife and brand-new baby instead of with his teen-age sidekick and their finny friends. What a shocker. Aqualad was brought out of his reverie by a sexy female hiding in the shadows, who grabbed him and planted a big wet one on his kisser. Although I guess it would've *had* to have been a wet one, wouldn't it?

Aqualad figured out that this curvy teen-ager was Tula, a gawky girl he had known years earlier. Now she'd grown up, she'd noticed Aqualad had been cut loose, and she proposed they hang together. Aqualad didn't have to think about that idea for long, with that wet smooch still fresh on his lips, so they went off to break the news to his quasi-parents.

Mera wasn't thrilled with the idea, no doubt noticing Tula's nubility and knowing first-hand how easy it was to get these dopey Atlanteans to marry the first sexy babe they saw. But Aquaman agreed Aqualad could make his own decisions. Soon our two teeny-boppers got a job dancing at Dr. Dorsal's Deep Six Discotheque, where all the scubateens hung out. Right.

Needless to say, our Aquakids got in over their heads (so to speak), and our favorite Sea King had to pull their butts out of the soggy fire. But Aquaman forgave them for being dim bulbs, and they agreed to return to Atlantis and pay more attention to their elders. I always enjoy a story that ends with a heart-warming moral.

Despite that big intro, Tula appeared only sporadically after that, mostly to baby-sit Aquababy. Her finest moment came when Aquaman left Atlantis to search for the kidnapped Mera, which began in #40 (Jul-Aug 68)

Tula's main function was to baby-sit Aquababy (as seen here in ***Aquaman*** *#42), but in this case she's also mulling Atlantean political events.*

Not even Aqualad's fervent pleas on the cover of ***Tales of the Teen Titans*** *#45 (Aug 84) were enough to get Tula more than a few panels of action after the Silver Age ended.*

and ran through #48 (Nov-Dec 69). In that tale, Tula joined a band of dissidents resisting the heavy-handed rule of Narkran, who took over in Aquaman's absence. Ultimately, she played a pivotal role at the story's climax in #47, when Narkran and his army faced down the resisters.

She faded into the background after that, but she finally resurfaced with a bang in the ultra-popular *Tales of the Teen Titans* #46 (Aug 84). The cover featured Aqualad carrying the lifeless form of Tula, bursting into TT HQ, and pleading for help. It got my attention. Tula nearly died when the dripping duo helped the Titans fight the H.I.V.E., but she was made of sterner stuff and lived on.

Sadly, her stuff wasn't stern enough to stand up to *Crisis*. Well, technically, she was han-

Despite the uncanny resemblance, Aqualad has misidentified this comely lass in ***Aquaman*** *#6 (Feb 95). Trust me — I know Tula; Tula's a friend of mine. This ain't Tula.*

*Tula nearly bit the big one in 1984, in **Tales of the Teen Titans**, but she managed to hold on two more years until **Crisis**.*

dling *Crisis* just fine until issue #9 (Dec 85), when Chemo hawked up a big slab of chemical saliva and expectorated on her.

The new Supergirl was able to handle that kind of toxic spit when she and Chemo held a mini-reunion party for *Crisis*' dead guys in *Supergirl* #5 (Jan 97), but it was beyond Tula's capabilities.

And, despite Aqualad's belief that he had found her again in *Aquaman* #6 (Feb 95), she's still dead. What a gal.

From Merlin to Prince

As for Ra-Man, he's actually the Prince formerly known as Mark Merlin, an investigator of the occult who lasted more than six years in *House of Secrets* beginning with #23 (Aug 59). But by 1965, readers were more interested in guys with capes than guys in black suits and bow ties who wore cat charms. So a change was made.

Prince Ra-Man was introduced as a result of "The Death of Mark Merlin" in *HoS* #73 (Jul-Aug 65). That issue cover-featured a battle between Eclipso and a big green fish monster, which gives you some idea of how impressive the editors thought their new hero was gonna be. But at least Ra-Man got the lead spot in the issue. And he did have a cape — not to mention a goatee, a silver streak in his hair, and a puffy shirt. Pretty dang suave.

Our adventure began with Merlin being ambushed at home by his old enemy The Gargoyle, who shrank him into a microworld. And, since The Atom wasn't around to see the little flashes of color as Mark winked out of sight, he was pretty much out of luck on getting back.

In the microworld, he met the sorcerer Kranak and his daughter Rimah. Not only was Rimah an eyeful, she wasn't shy about it, either.

She pointed out that living there prevented them from aging, keeping her supple. "Am I not young and desirable?" she purred, no doubt smitten by Mark's dapper bow tie. "Very beautiful and desirable, Rimah!" our suave hero replied, no doubt just being cordial but seeing advantages to being stuck there, after all.

To make a long story short (and it's amazing how long an 11-page Silver Age story could be), Merlin used his cat charm to help him gain great knowledge and mental powers, which he used to save the kidnapped Rimah. (I *told* you this was the condensed version.) His new powers also gave him the ability to return to Earth — but only in the body and brain of another. So he downed a potion that turned him into Prince Ra-Man, reputed to be a descendant of the Egyptian sun-god, Ra. (Get it? Ra? Man?) The Prince retained only the memory of having once been Mark Merlin, whatever that means.

Needless to say, Ra-Man returned to Earth to free his former fiancée and secretary Elsa and kick a little Gargoyle butt. As was usual with these deals, the Prince came up with some lame reason for not explaining the whole thing — and, considering how badly I just handled explaining it, I understand his thinking. Basically, he let Elsa believe Mark Merlin was dead and that he was Merlin's friend, contacted by occult means to come to the rescue.

The Prince wasn't as attracted to Elsa as Mark had been, since they operated only as colleagues. Ra-Man returned to the microworld (and Rimah) on several occasions but never stayed long, because his new powers left him feeling he had a Peter Parker-like responsibility to protect Earth. That included a nifty tussle with his title-mate, Eclipso, in #76 (Jan-Feb 66).

But Ra-Man only lasted eight issues, through *HoS* #80 (Sep-Oct 66), a pretty pitiful showing after Mark Merlin's tenure. Score one for the bow tie. He returned in *DC Comics Presents* #32 (Apr 81), when he finally revealed the truth about himself to Elsa. He didn't show up again until *Crisis* #12, when a Shadow Demon sliced him in half. That's gotta hurt.

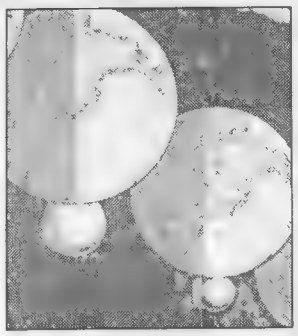
It's pretty sad when the best we can do for still-dead Silver Age heroes is a guy who showed up nine times and a sidekick's sidekick who never even scored her own feature. Still, you gotta admire both of them for knowing something so many others haven't figured out: Once you're dead, you oughta be dead.

*Mark Merlin started pushing up daisies in **House of Secrets** #73 (Jul-Aug 65) by turning his soul (or something) over to Prince Ra-Man, a niftier-looking guy altogether.*

*After changing from Mark Merlin into Prince Ra-Man, our hero returned to Earth to beat the snot out of the dastardly villain who'd tried to off him in **House of Secrets** #73 (Jul-Aug 65).*

What's up with Wildcat?

By Marc Patten



Crisis on Infinite Earths: The anomalies

"We know that he's older than the modern super-heroes, but we never said how *much* older."

— Beau Smith

Of all the characters to be altered by the numerous cosmic events of the DC universe over the last few decades, none of the others has had the roller coaster ride that Ted Grant has. Grant, you see, was and is the costumed crime fighter known as Wildcat. Grant fought crime in the 1940s while in his mid-20s. He teamed with Batman in *The Brave and the Bold* in the 1970s, when he should have been approaching retirement age. Still fighting strong in his golden years, he fought what many thought to be his last fight in *Crisis on Infinite Earths* and had his legs crushed beyond repair. In one last fight to save the cosmos, he was granted renewed strength (apparently reversing the paralysis in his legs) and was sent to a limbo to battle evil forces with the rest of the JSA for what was supposed to be eternity.

Years later, in *Armageddon: Inferno*, The Justice Society returned to the modern DC universe saving the day and once keeping their renewed vitality, albeit still in their 70s. Wildcat romped around with The JSA in their series for a year in 1992 before officially retiring again. In 1994, Grant began palling around with Guy Gardner: Warrior and eventually became head of security for Gardner's superhero bar, Warriors —how old he was by then was vague. Even though he should still have been in his mid- to late 70s, he was cracking skulls with Gardner.

The short version of Wildcat's origin as retold by Roy Thomas in ***All-Star SquadronAnnual*** *#1 (82).*

October 1994 began the supposed time-traveling fixer-upper, "Zero Hour," where many of the JSA were killed and others were aged to chronological accuracy. (If Wildcat was 28 in 1940, in 1994 he would have been 82.) For the past two years Ted Grant (the original) has been palling around with Batman and Catwoman, apparently in his early 50s.

None of these tales are imaginary stories, and the character has never been updated *à la* Superman or Wonder Woman. Confused yet?

Wildcat's legs were shattered by The Red Tornado in ***Crisis*** *#5.*

Let's start at the beginning

In 1940 Ted Grant, world champion boxer, donned a costume to clear his name, when he was framed for murder. After being proved innocent, he continued to box *and to* fight crime in the streets of Gotham City as the costumed adventurer named Wildcat. He has to this day no other powers than his quick wits and tremendous fighting skills. He never fit in well with his super-powered contemporaries in The JSA and All-Star Squadron, preferring to stay home and fight thugs and common criminals to taking on super-baddies.

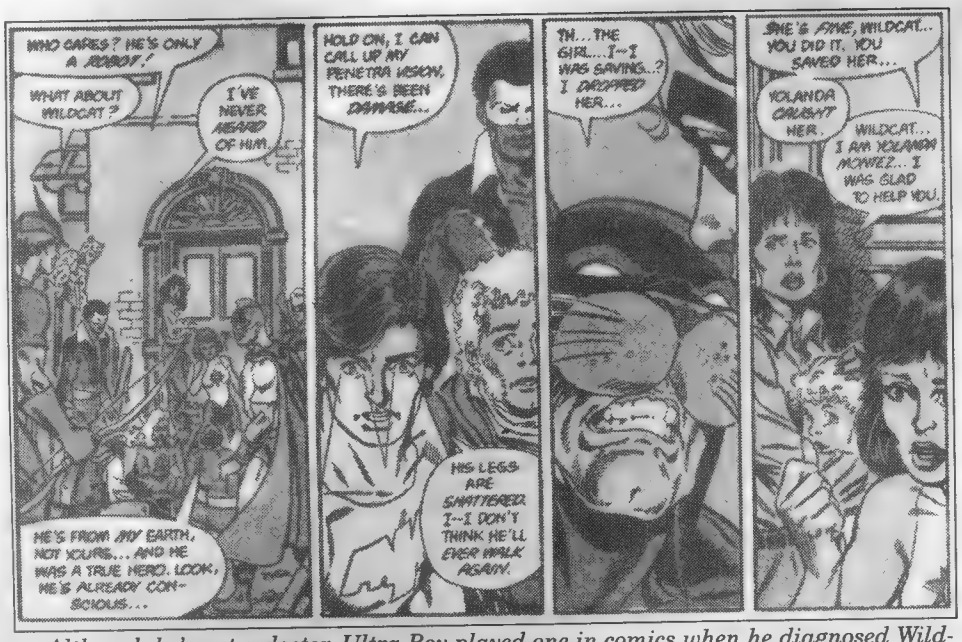
Grant is the godfather of Yolanda Montez, a rock journalist who for a brief time after *Crisis* operated in Spandex as the second Wildcat with the group Infinity Inc. She was killed in the final issue of *Eclipso*, by that villain.

It was revealed in the *Batman / Wildcat* and *Catwoman / Wildcat* mini-series that Grant trained both the young Bruce Wayne (when he sought mastery over all forms of combat before becoming The Dark Knight) and Selina Kyle (at age 16) in the skill of boxing.

Beau Smith: Super-hero rescuer

Still confused? Beau Smith, scribe of the current adventures of the once-geriatric hero offered an explanation. "During and after *Crisis*, the Wildcat character was pretty much scattered here and there," he said. "We made reference in the *Batman / Wildcat* mini-series that he had been crippled. He had been replaced by a female Wildcat for a while (Yolanda Montez) and went through all these changes like becoming 90 years old. It was just a screwed-up situation for a really great character.

"I've been a Wildcat fan since I was a little kid. Two of the old comic books my dad had given me were *Black Terror*, which was a comic book I finally got to do [for Eclipse and soon to be updated for Todd McFarlane],



Although he's not a doctor, Ultra Boy played one in comics when he diagnosed Wildcat's injuries in ***Crisis*** *#5.*

and the other was a *Sensation Comics* that Wildcat was in. My grandfather boxed, my dad boxed, I boxed Golden Gloves, and that was always the big hook for me. He was another character I wanted to do.

"Things were great for the character back in the '70s and '80s with his team-ups in *The Brave and the Bold*, but it was around *Crisis* that as a fan I got passionate about all of the things being done to him."

Smith said that he believed no one really knew what to do with the character. The opportunity for Smith to play with his childhood favorite arose when the writer began his stint on *Guy Gardner: Warrior* with #22. "I figured that I signed a year contract and I had to save some of these characters that I liked somehow, some way," he added. He talked to Editors Eddie Berganza and Kevin Dooley, who also had a fondness for the character, and got permission to "rescue" him and a few other obscure favorites like Lady Blackhawk (another time-lost anomaly) and former Green Lantern Arisia. Smith said Dooley explained to him all of the continuity and time baggage that went with the character — but agreed to the simple solution that no explanation was better than rehashing the past.

"I said, let's do the Sean Connery thing. Let's make it believable," Smith elaborated. "We were very vague about his age. We didn't try to explain it, because then we'd have eight million fans asking continuity questions. This is comics, and we tried to suspend belief a little bit. We did the Nick Fury thing. We know that he's older than the modern super-heroes, but we never said how *much* older." Wildcat became a permanent part of *Guy Gardner*'s supporting cast for the two years Smith wrote the series and "he was safe," Smith said. "Nobody could touch him, because we were doing stuff with him.

"They were always trying to do bad things to him," Smith laughed. During the course of his appearances in *Guy Gardner: Warrior*, Ted Grant went on numerous adventures (especially during 1995's *Underworld Unleashed* crossover series) and even romanced Lady Blackhawk — a plot line that was left open-ended, when the series was canceled after #44.

Lending his fighting spirit to a Norse god and fighting Ragnarok over and over for several years in the ***Last Days of the Justice Society Special*** *(86) must have provided therapy for Wildcat's shattered legs.*

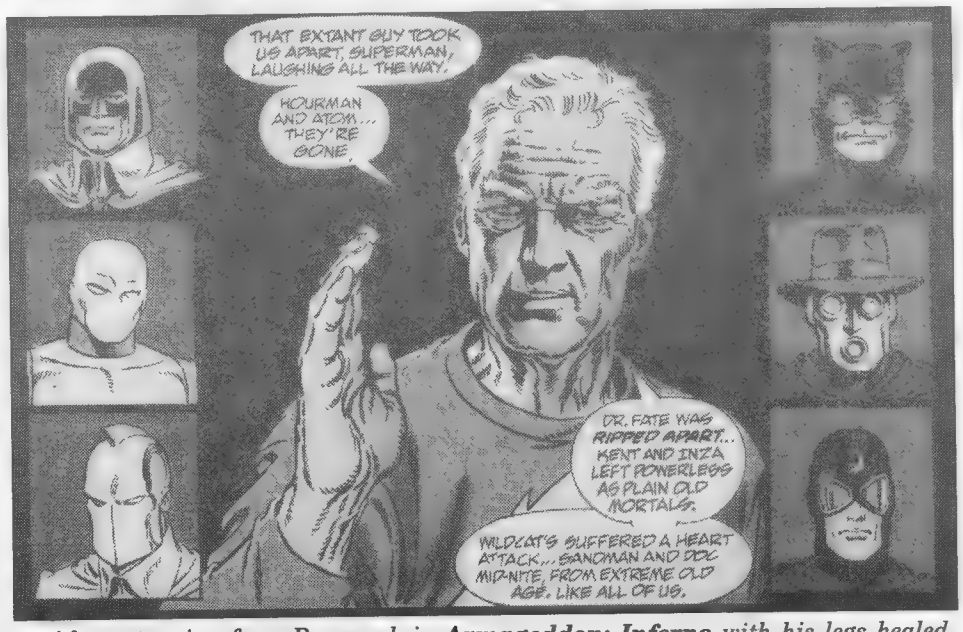
His age is his business

After *Guy Gardner: Warrior* ended, Smith rallied to keep Wildcat alive and kicking. "I was trying to keep him from falling into hands that wanted to cut his legs off again." After the acceptance of the *Batman / Wildcat* proposal, the creative and editorial team was presented with the same dilemma. "We agreed yet again that we just don't say anything. He's a little older than most modern heroes and has the white around the temples like he always did. We basically moved him back to the age he was in the late '70s, when he teamed up with Batman in *Brave and Bold* [50-52, according to Smith]. In the *Catwoman / Wildcat* mini-series, the two characters are actually swapping spit and everything."

So the officially unofficial explanation? "We were supposed to tie this all up in *Guy Gardner*, but it got canceled," said Smith. He added that during "Zero Hour," Wildcat went through a time shift while battling Extant. Like the time or chronal energy that caused Ray Palmer, The Atom, to regress to age 16 and then accelerate back and forth until he stabilized at his normal age again (*Teen Titans* #24), Smith said that Wildcat stabilized in his early 50s (after being aged to his 80s during *Zero Hour*). "This is an age where he can still be in top physical condition and do things," Smith said.

There are no plans to include Wildcat in the JSA series arriving next year, but Smith, co-writer Chuck Dixon, and artist Sergio Cariello have proposals in for a *Nightwing / Wildcat* mini-series further cementing Wildcat in the Batman family of characters. An ongoing Wildcat series has been proposed, as well, if fan response continues to be positive.

Now if only someone could explain what's happened with Hawkman —



After returning from Ragnarok in ***Armageddon: Inferno*** *with his legs healed, Wildcat's next health crisis came in* ***Zero Hour****, when Extant made the JSA act their age.*

Wildcat's Earth-B Adventures

Ironically, JSA member Ted (Wildcat) Grant survived *Crisis*, albeit with his legs shattered permanently due to a lightning strike. It's ironic, because Wildcat was a prime example of why *Crisis* was considered necessary in the first place.

A second-string Golden Ager, Wildcat didn't even get to join The JSA until their annual Silver Age team-ups with The JLA, beginning in *JLA* #46 (Aug 66). He took part in a bunch of them, vibrating over from Earth-Two with his JSA pals. Then, with no explanation, he teamed up with Batman in *The Brave and the Bold* #88 (Feb-Mar 70), after The Caped Crusader tracked him to an Earth-1 rooming house. Wildcat teamed with Bats in several more *B&B* Earth-1 adventures, in #97, #110, #118, and finally in #127, in which he owned a resort island.

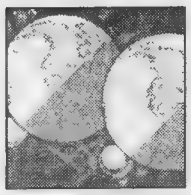
How the heck did he end up on Earth-1 while still operating with The JSA on Earth-2? Beats me. *B&B* Editor Murray Boltinoff and writer Bob Haney were not major sticklers for continuity points that interrupted their story, to the extent that some fans suggest that *B&B* adventures must have taken place on a separate world called Earth-B.

Wildcat's unexplained Earth-1 existence was one example of why the two-Earth format was thought unwieldy. Having Batman team up with a JSA member required more explanation than new readers were thought to want to put up with.

Of course, even Wildcat's shattered legs didn't stay that way for long. After all, whether he's on Earth-1, Earth-2, or Earth-B, he's still in comics. And comics really have no word for the concept "permanent."

— Craig Shutt

The Psycho Pirate's Continuity Crisis



Crisis on Infinite Earths: The psychosis

Transcribed by Scott Brick from the notes of Dr. Bartholomew Wolper, deceased, Psychologist and Social Scientist

*[**Continuity Spoiler Warning:** While many of the events described in the following article "never happened" according to current continuity, you may not want to know about them.]*

Arkham Asylum Casebook
Highwater, Dr. James #3794.
Cross-reference: Psycho Pirate
(Hayden, Roger #3156;
Halstead, Charles #0961)

"It begins and ends with continuity. When history isn't convenient, the creators change it. But what about the people continuity sweeps aside? Who mourns for them?"

Such were the supposed first words spoken by Dr. James Highwater, Arkham inmate #0636, since the day of his incarceration two years ago. I wouldn't know; I was appearing on *Nightline* at the time and was only called in to conduct a preliminary examination upon my return. When Highwater's words were repeated to me, I was intrigued, since they reminded me of my previous patient, the still-unaccounted-for Roger Hayden, the second villain to go by the name Psycho Pirate. Long suspecting a connection between Highwater and Hayden, even more than the obvious — Highwater's been wearing the Psycho Pirate's emotion-control trolling Medusa Mask since Hayden disappeared two years ago — I approached my interview with Highwater hoping for some clue as to Hayden's whereabouts.

During the first few minutes, Highwater explained to me a number of things: first, that he believed himself to be the new Psycho Pirate in Hayden's absence; second, that he had taken on a number of Hayden's beliefs, primarily that all of us are mere fictional characters in a comic-book story; third, that his Medusa Mask was really a gateway to other universes outside of what he calls "continuity"; and, last, that what he calls "ret-cons" are quite literally driving him insane.

As Highwater is far better equipped than I to explain the "ret-con" concept, I'll begin the transcription at this pivotal point.

*At the end of **Crisis**, only the Psycho Pirate still remembered what had happened.*

Wolper: *... and it's these "retroactive continuities" that have inspired you to speak again after two years?*

Highwater: Eight.

Wolper: *Pardon?*

Highwater: Eight years, but of course you see it as two, because you're in continuity and I stand outside it, which brings us back to your question.

Wolper: *I'm afraid I'm not certain what you mean by "continuity."*

Highwater: You obviously don't read enough comic books. Continuity is the "official version," the sum of all events chronicled in comic books until now.

Wolper: *So it's history, in other words.*

Highwater: No. If it was history, I would call it history. They're completely different concepts. History's an absolute; it cannot be changed. Continuity can be. When things are inconvenient, when a writer gets an idea that can't be expressed according to the facts as they currently stand, he changes the facts, retroactively. If he wants to tell a Wildcat story and doesn't like the fact that Wildcat's a crippled octogenarian, then fine, he's not. And just like that, Wildcat's young, he always has been, and it turns out he was never old at all, with no explanation offered or implied. It's revisionist history, a retroactive continuity. Or ret-con, if you will.

Wolper: *I see ... So these, these "ret-cons" you refer to ... they bother you?*

Highwater: Do they bother me? Let me ask you, Doctor, do the cries of innocents bother you? When a world dies in agony for no other reason than it's inconvenient, does that strike you as troublesome? Yes, Doctor, I'm bothered by these ret-cons because they call out to me. The people swept aside when a new continuity is established still exist behind my Medusa Mask. Creators can make everyone else forget, but the victims, the forgotten ones, they all seem to know, instinctively, that The Psycho Pirate remembers them, and they call out to me!

Wolper: *Tell me, when did this transference into the Psycho Pirate occur?*

Highwater: When Roger Hayden turned into mist and faded away.

Wolper: *And when was this?*

Highwater: *Animal Man* #24, June 1990.

Wolper: *I'm sorry, come again?*

Highwater: Well the cover said June, but it happened in March. Things are always three months ahead. They do that; don't ask me why.

Wolper: *Who do that? I mean, who **does** that?*

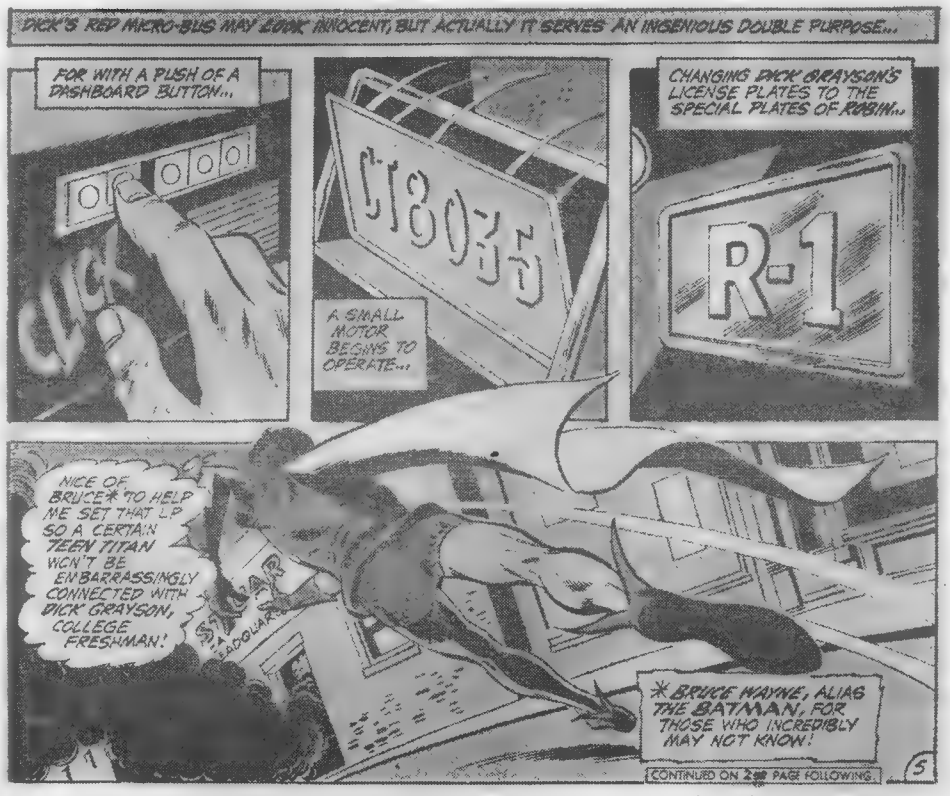
Highwater: Comic books. It's some kind of rule. At first I thought it might be a continuity thing, but now I'm not so sure.

Wolper: *Well, perhaps if you explained your continuity problems, we could determine why they trouble you so.*

Highwater: (*Weary laughter*) Where to begin? It's not even the major ones that harrow me the most. *Crisis on Infinite Earths*, as horrific as it was, is at least something I've been able to come to terms with. It's the small ones, perhaps considered insignificant at first, that are the most pervasive.

Wolper: *Roger Hayden, the second Psycho Pirate, told me that this **Crisis** you speak of eliminated a great many heroes. I believe he said they were earlier versions.*

Highwater: That's right. The writers separated the older heroes from the younger and banished them to Earth-2. Apparently, it made their jobs somehow easier. So much of the continuity between then and now is gone. Do you realize Superman and Batman were best friends? Nowadays they tolerate one another at best, but for decades they teamed up each month in *World's Finest*.



Although Dick Grayson was fighting crime on the campus of Hudson University in ***Batman*** *#227 (Dec 70, above), the first chapter of "Batman: Year 3" from* ***Batman*** *#436 (Aug 89, right) established that it had only happened over the preceding two years, not 19 years earlier.*

Wolper: ***World's Finest****? And is that a comic book?*

Highwater: (*Sighs*) Yes, Doctor, it ran from 1941 to 1986. Interesting, because 1986 is so far after the debut of the Earth-1 heroes that those later *World's Finest* stories must have featured the current incarnations, but there you have it: They never happened. It's a ret-con. Superman and Batman are now allies, nothing more. Their decades-long friendship is gone, never existed.

Superman, Batman, and Wonder Woman were charter members of The Justice League, did you know that? No, never mind; of course you don't. According to the current continuity, they joined during The JLA's first year. Silly concept. How would the rest have come together if not for the example of the Big Three? It's still there, you know. Despite the ret-con, the original story can still be found in all its four-color glory, in *Brave and the Bold* #28, February 1960. There they are: Superman, Batman, and Wonder Woman. Yet, when it came time to retell that same story 28 years later in *Secret Origins*, Vol. Two, #32, the Big Three were nowhere to be found! With one stroke of a pen, The Justice League's earliest adventures were instantly recategorized. Yes, they still happened, those stories still exist, but in them the JLA's roster is suddenly three members short. You can point to the original version, point out Batman's involvement till you're blue in the face, but it doesn't matter; the writers insist those pages are lying. (*Laughs*) History laughs at such concepts.

Did you know that at one point, Superman and his pal Jimmy Olsen were inside the bottle city of Kandor?

Wolper: *I'm sorry, you've lost me.*

Highwater: It's a Kryptonian city that exists in shrunken form in Superman's Fortress of Solitude.

Wolper: *His Fortress of what?*

Highwater: If you keep interrupting, we'll never get anywhere! It's a Kryptonian city, complete with miniature red sun, under which Superman is powerless. While he and Olsen were inside, they became Nightwing and Flamebird, the Kryptonian counterparts of Batman and Robin.

Wolper: *Nightwing? As in Blüdhaven's Nightwing?*

Highwater: That's my point entirely; that's where I'm heading! The current Nightwing is the original Robin, Batman's former partner, who adopted the name when he went solo.

Wolper: *Yes, I seem to remember he'd been fired ...*

Highwater: No, that's just it. He was never fired, he just went off to college in 1969! The writers came up with the idea he'd been fired when they introduced the third Robin in 1989. Made for a better story, I suppose. They claimed that he'd been shot in battle and that Batman had decided he could no longer risk taking a kid into action. (*Laughs*)

Then they introduce the new Robin and, once again, a 13-year-old's on the firing line. But the truth of it is, the original Robin was never shot; he just grew up. Oh, sure, they show the shooting now in flashback, but it never happened. After college, he took the name Nightwing to honor Superman, who was, in turn, honoring Batman. If you ask folks now, however, they'll tell you that the name Nightwing is to honor his two biggest influences, "Night" for Batman and "Wing" for Superman, but they completely ignore

the Kandorian hero of the same name! That may be one of the ret-cons that troubles me most, because with one fell swoop they deny Superman's adventures in Kandor, the real reason Robin left Batman, and the true genesis of the name Nightwing. And that's only *one* of the Robin ret-cons!

Wolper: *There are others?*

Highwater: (*Laughs*) Have you heard the one about the second Robin stealing the hubcaps off the Batmobile?

Wolper: *Uh, no, I'm afraid I'm not all that current ...*

Highwater: You can read about it; it happened in *Batman* #408, June 1987. Seems the kid was a criminal before Batman took him in. The only problem was that he'd already made his debut in *Batman* #357, four years before, and hubcaps had had nothing to do with it!

Wolper: *So exactly what is it that bothers you? Certainly not hubcaps. Is it that no one remembers these things but you?*

Highwater: No, you fool, it's that the real versions, and the real people involved who don't exist any more, they still exist behind my mask, and they call out to me! Victims, all of them!

Batman used to kill people. Did you know that? Of course not; it doesn't fit in with our modern image of the hero, so of course it's been ret-conned, but who do you think hears the death-cries of his victims that don't exist any more? Don't look so astonished, it's true. Gotham's patron saint, who spends so much time and energy nowadays decrying the use of guns, used to ruthlessly mow his enemies down when it suited him.

Invest a few thousand dollars, read his adventures prior to 1940, and you'll see. Batman broke their necks, strangled them, threw them off buildings, or used a water-cooled machine gun mounted on his Batplane. He killed dozens. Dala and the Monk, members of the Frenchy Blake gang, Doctor Death's assistants Jabah

Jason Todd's origins were originally quite similar to Dick Grayson's, with Todd's acrobat parents killed by Killer Croc and the orphan being taken in by Bruce Wayne. Later, the story was changed as this recap from ***Batman*** *#410 (Aug 87) shows.*

A more vengeful Batman took the life of his enemies, including this vampire, in the early days of his career.

and Mikhail, Adam Lamb — no one remembers them, but they're all Batman's victims just the same, and they still live behind my mask!

Wolper: *And this is more difficult for you now than before, when you were silent?*

Highwater: I think it's because the universes keep merging, so there are more memories to store. Our universe keeps opening itself to others. Two years ago, our universe briefly intersected with the Marvel universe. It has its own history, its own continuity, and millions of new souls I've never known, but, since it connected with ours, I suddenly have memories of them all! New characters, new heroes ... Have you ever heard of Captain America?

Wolper: *Wasn't he a member of The Justice League a few years back?*

Highwater: That's General Glory, a cheap knock-off. Cap's the original. His sidekick, Bucky Barnes, died shortly after World War II, supposedly killed in an airplane explosion orchestrated by the Red Skull and Zemo. Captain America seemingly perished at that moment, as well, only to wind up being frozen in ice

Even Bucky Barnes' fate has been the subject of ret-cons. Did he die at the end of World War II as Captain America remembers when he was revived in ***Avengers*** *#4 or did he live on into the 1950s?*

until The Avengers thawed him out, decades later.

Wolper: *And you're saying what, that this is a ret-con?*

Highwater: Yes, absolutely! It isn't even my universe, but I still know that Bucky never died in a plane crash; he was shot in *Captain America Comics* #66. And Cap certainly didn't plunge into the ocean and freeze that instant; he found himself a new sidekick, Golden Girl, and fought alongside her for nine more issues!

Wolper: *So Bucky cries out to you?*

Highwater: Yes, but not the Bucky who died, the Bucky who now never existed, and Golden Girl, as well. They were veterans, war heroes; they deserve their due. And speaking of which, Flash Thompson was a war hero. Did you know that? But not just any war, the Vietnam War! Imagine that, a 25-year-old Vietnam vet.

Wolper: *I don't ...*

Highwater: Of course, you don't know him; neither do I.

Just trust me on this one: Spider-Man's best friend went off to Vietnam in *Amazing Spider-Man* #47. It's fine to make a topical reference to warfare in 1967, but, when the same character is still around 30 years later and hasn't aged, it can get embarrassing. So now Flash still carries his military history, but the name of the war he fought in has been swallowed by the mists of obscurity. He's the youngest Vietnam vet around, so young that he wasn't even born until after that war was over!

Does Flash Thompson suffer from post-traumatic ret-con disorder?

There are so many people in this Spider-Man's life who have been ret-conned to some extent. His wife Mary Jane never knew his secret identity until it was convenient for her to know, 20 years after she was introduced. Read the *Parallel Lives* graphic novel: Suddenly, she's known all along! Or his Aunt May, who hated Spider-Man to such an extent that she once aimed a gun at him and fired. Yet before her death in *Amazing Spider-Man* #400, the writers would have us believe she knew his secret identity all along. Or Gwen Stacy, the love of Spider-Man's life ...

Wolper: *I thought you said he was married?*

If Aunt May knew his secret identity all this time, why didn't she ever offer to sew up Peter's Spider-Man costume?

Highwater: No, this was before. Gwen Stacy, the true love of Spider-Man's life, was cloned, a fact revealed in *Amazing Spider-Man* #144.

Then in *Spectacular Spider-Man Annual* #8, the High Evolutionary said she wasn't a clone after all; she was really Joyce Delany, a woman who'd been injected with Gwen's DNA.

Yet later, *Web of Spider-Man* #125 told us the Delany personality was an illusion crafted by Dreamweaver, and that it really *was* Gwen's clone all along!

So, while the writers decide which version is real and which isn't, Joyce Delany cries out behind my mask, a woman — no, a personality invented merely to die, who never got the chance to live, even off-panel!

Wolper: *Off-panel?*

Highwater: Never mind. You wouldn't understand.

Wolper: *Let me ask you then, if you believe these — these ret-cons — are an injustice, how do you feel about the writers who commit them? Are they your enemies? Do they persecute you? Do they do this to make their characters suffer?*

Highwater: Not intentionally. Many are operating under orders, forced to follow silly continuities their parent companies came up with. I've only ever known one, Grant Morrison, my own creator.

Pleasant enough fellow, if a bit authoritative. One of the characters he used to work on, Animal Man: Did you know his family was dead?

Wolper: *My God, no!*

Highwater: I'm afraid so. Gunned down, brutally murdered.

Wolper: *When did it happen?*

Highwater: *Animal Man* #19, January 1990. Everyone came to the funeral, all his Justice League comrades, they all stood by the graveside, paid their respects. Yet seven short months later, in #26, his family was alive again. Undead, never killed. Seems Morrison was leaving the series and had a pang of guilt. Left Animal Man a parting gift for all his hard work, as it were.

Wolper: *If they're back, how is that a bad thing?*

Highwater: No, believe me, I'm glad. Buddy Baker's a fine man and didn't deserve the sorrows Grant made him endure, a fact Grant came to realize himself, I'm sure. It just makes me wonder — if you asked the Martian Manhunter today what that funeral was like, I can't help but wonder whether he'd remember. He was there, remember? If so, what would he say?

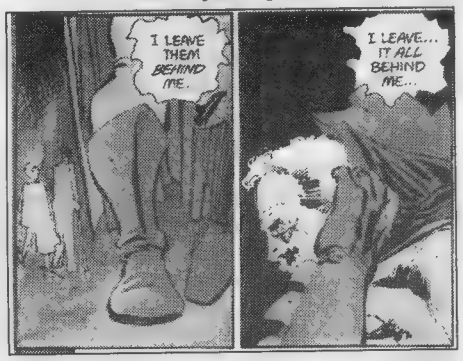
Wolper: *The cries of the disenfranchised aside, is life terrible as a fictional character? From what you've told me, those living inside of these continuities seem relatively ageless. If I were Batman and I had a choice, I doubt I'd choose to be a 60-year-old man.*

Highwater: More like 80, but that's a trite way of looking at things. And I wouldn't worry too much about premature aging, if I were you.

Wolper: *How do you mean?*

Highwater: Nothing I can share; I'd just curtail my television appearances in the future.

But to answer your question, life as a



Just how old is the Batman of ***Dark Knight Returns****? And what year is it set in?*

character isn't necessarily awful. It just makes it difficult to decide which of your actions are your own.

As I once tried to tell Animal Man, we wander in and out of stories, and our minds fill in the gaps. Thirty days go by, and we think it's mere moments. What we think are histories and memories are merely brief appearances in the stories of other characters.

Wolper: *So tell me, Dr. High — Psycho Pirate — why now? Why, after standing sentinel behind your mask in silence for the last two years, why are you communicating once more?*

Highwater: Because the multiverse is coming back, and it's causing rumblings behind my mask.

Wolper: *It's what?*

Highwater: Back, back, it's coming back! *Crisis* got rid of it, but, if there's one thing you learn living in a comic book, it's that no one stays dead for long, universes included.

Wolper: *You're sure about this?*

Highwater: The writers told me. We're still on very good terms — they wouldn't lie to me.

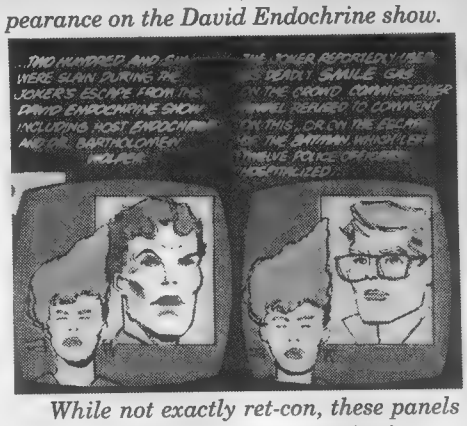
At this point in the interview, Dr. Highwater became listless and fell into a prolonged silence.

Although it's too early in the evaluation process to form conclusions, my strongest impressions are that his anxieties seem very real to him. Yes, these "retcons" seem annoying to someone whose duty it is to stand outside continuity and keep track. And, yes, the cries of the innocent would, indeed, be troubling to me, were they real and I in a position to hear them.

At this point, I feel positive Dr. Highwater can rejoin society one day. After all, unlike our other patients, he's never taken a life, never committed a crime, and he's here of his own accord. I'm confident in his complete recovery.

Interesting comment he made about television appearances, however, since I've long entertained the notion of appearing with a former patient on a variety of talk shows, allowing the world to marvel in his recovery and redemption. What a pleasant thought.

Which reminds me, I'm late for my appearance on the David Endochrine show.



While not exactly ret-con, these panels could be considered future continuity.

Marvel's mutant Crisis

By Patrick Daniel O'Neill

Marvel frequently brags that its "universe" has never required the kind of enormous shake-up that its major competitor set in motion with *Crisis on Infinite Earths*.

That may be true — arguably the recent "Heroes Reborn-Heroes Return" storylines fit the bill — but there were even earlier attempts to "reset" at least portions of the Marvel continuity.

*[**Spoiler warning:** The following article reveals details of the plots and conclusions of numerous X-Men stories from 10 years past.]*

One of the most important of these occurred just two years after DC's *Crisis*, when the X-Men experienced "The Fall of the Mutants" and its aftermath, beginning with events in *Uncanny X-Men* #225 (Jan 88).

First some background: The active X-Men, as the story began, were Wolverine, Havok, Psylocke, Dazzler, Rogue, and Longshot. They were joined by Cyclops' estranged wife, Madelyne Prior. Former team leader Storm had her powers negated by a device created by the mutant engineer Forge. Colossus had an accident that made it difficult and painful for him to remain in his non-armored form. And the Native American trickster god called The Adversary had set plans in motion to destroy The X-Men and bring chaos to the universe.

Adversary's plans began to go awry when Roma — cosmic guardian of order — surreptitiously brought Colossus back to the group, as they attempted to rescue Storm from what they thought was her imprisonment by Forge at his headquarters in Dallas.

There they confronted The Freedom Force (formerly The Brotherhood of Evil Mutants), now a federally sanctioned strike team — and Freedom Force's precognitive member Destiny predicted no one who was in that headquarters at dawn the next day would survive — and she saw no future of any kind for The X-Men.

*Forge used The X-Men to stop The Adversary once and for all in **Uncanny X-Men** #227.*

The battle against The Adversary ran through three issues, and, near the end of *Uncanny X-Men* #227, it did appear that the team, though triumphant, was dead.

But Roma would not so ill-use those she had chosen as her champions. The cosmic guardian restored the team to life — but, since the world thought them dead, they could now operate in secrecy, once again protecting the lives of their families and friends from reprisal by enemies.

As Roma said in the last panel of *Uncanny* #227, " ... magnificent though you were as heroes, all a person might wish to be, now you can do much more ... because you have become legends!"

X-Men: The urban myth. That would be the theme of writer Chris Claremont's stories for the next year or so: The X-Men, thought dead, became a legend — an urban myth, if you will — always operating in secret.

In fact, *Uncanny X-Men* #229 revealed an additional part of Roma's gift. As she explained, " ... your death, X-Men, was more than mere hyperbole. In a sense, you stand apart from life. You cannot be detected by any agency other than yourselves — living or mechanical, magical or scientific — neither being nor power nor enchantment. You may be seen by the naked eye ... but that is all."

For all intents and purposes, then, The X-Men were almost living ghosts.

The power of Roma's gift was amplified in *Uncanny X-Men* #236, in the midst of the first tale about the island nation of Genosha — that science-fictional analog to South Africa's old regime, where mutants take the place of blacks.

When several members of the team were captured, the Genoshan authorities discovered it was impossible to discover anything about them.

*Storm discovered a database of information on herself and her teammates in **Uncanny X-Men** #239 (Dec 88).*

Crisis on Infinite Earths: Other universes

"They're not in our native computer net," the chief magistrate explained, "and every time we try to interface with an overseas data base — private, public, government, wide open or totally secured — we get a null response. The computechs theorize a virus program in operation ... it erases every reference, no matter how slight, to our prisoners."

So, for the next several years, The X-Men became something more than outlaw heroes; they became undetectable heroes. They had a new life — and no history that the world could discover.

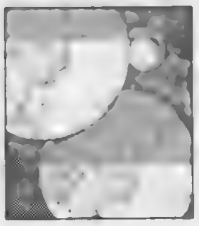
Sounds like a new beginning to me.

'Crisis on Infinite Earths': Whatever happened to?

By Marc Patten

It was the summer of 1985. I was going into my senior year of high school, my favorite super-heroes were about to be changed for all time, and I was leaving for an overseas teen tour to Israel for the summer. What a rotten thing for DC to do to me. Characters were being killed left and right.

Rumors said that continuity as I had known it would soon be entirely re-written. The week before I left, DC piled on



Crisis on Infinite Earths: Supporting characters

the final straw. Supergirl died in *Crisis on Infinite Earths* #7. It was the first time I ever cried reading a comic book, and I was 17 years old. I heard that my favorite character (besides Superman), The Flash, was next. I took a sneak peek at a *DC Coming Attractions* flyer a local comics store owner had from his distributor. There I found the description for *Crisis* #8: "Revealed at last! The Final Fate of The Flash!"

I was devastated. I felt betrayed, misled, and cheated. I wrote a four-page letter venting my rage and disappointment to DC and begging it not to kill my childhood hero. (Of course, I was young and hadn't a clue about the schedules of comics production. Not only had the decision to kill Barry Allen probably been made a year before, but the comic book was finished before I even wrote the letter.)

I had a phenomenal time that summer and met friends who to this day remain some of my closest — but every few weeks I'd think about comics and the two issues of *Crisis* that would be waiting for me upon my return. Would DC really kill Barry or was it just a bunch of comic-book hype?

Upon my return in mid-August, I raced to the comics shop where I had subscribed to the select few comics I couldn't get at my father's pharmacy (and, of course, the *Crisis* series — I wanted to read those comics the second they were available).

I couldn't wait to get home. I pulled a copy off the rack and paged through it quickly. My heart sank as I read Flash's final words: "There's hope ... There's always hope ..."

To this day I have never read a more powerful or more enjoyable comic-book series than *Crisis on Infinite Earths*.

A number of characters made their first (and in some cases, only) appearance in *Crisis*. Who were they and what happened to them *after Crisis*?

Impala, Owlwoman, and Godiva — These characters first appeared in official DC continuity in *Crisis* #12 and had previously been seen only in issues of *Super Friends*. They are affiliated with the international group The Global Guardians led by Dr. Mist. While the first DC universe appearance of The Global Guardians was in *DC Comics Presents* #46, these characters didn't specifically appear in that story.

Flash III — Wally West took the mantle of his predecessor in *Crisis* #12. Wally has since gone on to become the greatest Flash in recorded history and, after a brief period where he could only move about as fast as the speed of sound, he is now the fastest man alive, surpassing his mentor Barry Allen. *Crisis* #12 also marked the first time a sidekick had ever graduated into a mentor's role.

Pariah (Kell) — First appearance in *Crisis* #1. He was the greatest scientist on a parallel Earth, curing disease and controlling the weather. In his quest to learn the origin of the universe, he opened an anti-matter portal to the dawn of time and allowed The Anti-Monitor access to energy that enabled him to escape imprisonment. He somehow was granted the power to see where evil would next appear and travel there. He was last seen roaming around the Earth, foretelling danger, in the *War of the Gods* mini-series in 1991.

After this appearance in **Crisis** *#12, The Global Guardians would make sporadic appearances in the DC universe over the next several years. Green Fury, later renamed Fire, joined the Justice League.*

Harbinger (Lyla) — First appearance in *The New Teen Titans Annual* #2, first series. She was rescued as a girl from a shipwreck and raised by The Monitor. She was given a portion of his power, which gives her the strength and power of the Earth and the ability to replicate herself.

After the crossover *Millennium*, Harbinger was one of 10 people summoned by a Guardian of the Universe and his Zamoran mate to become the next step in the evolution of mankind. Some of those 10 became known as The New Guardians.

Upon discovering that a group of genetic neo-hybrids were the *real* "Chosen," The New Guardians settled on an island off the coast of South Africa to teach these new Chosen the ways of living with the Earth. Harbinger was last seen in *The New Guardians* #12 (Sep 89).

Lady Quark (Tashana) — First appearance in *Crisis* #4. She was the queen of her world before it was destroyed by anti-matter and she became the sole survivor of her universe after being rescued by Pariah. She joined the intergalactic police force L.E.G.I.O.N., led by Vril Dox, and then stayed with the core team in fleeing across the galaxy as marked traitors in *R.E.B.E.L.S.*

Dr. Light II (Kimiyo Hoshi) — First appearance in *Crisis* #4. In an observatory in Japan Dr. Kimiyo Hoshi was hit with a beam of energy and vanished while observing events on the star Vega with a group of astronomers. She was transformed into the new Dr. Light by The Monitor, presumably trained, and sent back to Earth-1, where she explained to Superman that hundreds of universes had already died. She became a member of the new Justice League formed by Maxwell Lord and served as a member of Justice League International and Justice League Europe before the team was disbanded and the current JLA team arose.

Wildcat II (Yolanda Montez) — Became Wildcat in *Crisis* #6. After many adventures with Infinity, Inc. and a brief solo career, she was killed by Eclipso in the last issue of that villain's comic book.

There are no plans to use any of the original characters created in *Crisis* in future storylines in the DC universe, according to Waid, but "Only time will tell. Unfortunately, they're all losers who didn't show up anywhere," Waid said.

Special thanks to Waid for letting me pick his brain for these tidbits about these characters' whereabouts in the DC universe, as he was leaving on vacation. Happy tanning, Mark.

Charlton heroes come to DC

By Marc Patten

Crisis on Infinite Earths provided an introduction, not only for new characters, but for a group of established heroes, formerly published by Charlton and acquired by DC in the early '80s. ("Previously appeared in" below indicates the pre-DC issue nearest the first DC appearance.) Introduced as the denizens of Earth-4, they included:

Heroes

• Blue Beetle (Ted Kord) — First appearance at DC, *Crisis* #1. Previously appeared in *Americomics Special* #1.

• Captain Atom (Nathaniel Christopher Adam) — First appearance at DC, *Crisis* #6. Previously appeared in *Americomics Special* #1.

• Nightshade (Eve Eden) — First appearance at DC, *Crisis* #6. Previously appeared in *Americomics Special* #1.

• The Question (Vic Sage) — First appearance at DC, *Crisis* #6. Previously appeared in *Americomics Special* #1.

• Judo Master (Rip Jagger) — First appearance at DC, *Crisis* #6. Previously appeared in *Judo Master* #98

• Peacemaker (Christopher Smith) — First appearance at DC, *Crisis* #6. Previously appeared in *Peacemaker* #5.

• Thunderbolt (Peter Canon) — First appearance at DC, *Crisis* #6. Previously appeared in *Thunderbolt* #60.

*A battle cry that hadn't been heard in several years was voiced once more in **Crisis** #6 with the introduction of Captain Atom to the DC universe.*

Villains

• Banshee — First appearance at DC, *Crisis* #9. Previously appeared in *Americomics Special* #1.

• Image — First appearance at DC, *Crisis* #9. Previously appeared in *Captain Atom* #88 (Charlton).

*The Blue Beetle had been introduced to DC readers in **Crisis** #1, while **Crisis** #6 marked the first DC appearance of The Question.*

• Punch and Jewlee — First appearance at DC, *Crisis* #9. Previously appeared in *Captain Atom* #89 (Charlton).

Many Charlton heroes appeared in their own ongoing DC series or mini-series with altered origins but similar powers and costumes.

Some, like Blue Beetle and Captain Atom, became members of Justice League International branches for a number of years.

In addition to a short-lived series, Thunderbolt made a few appearances with JLE, as well.

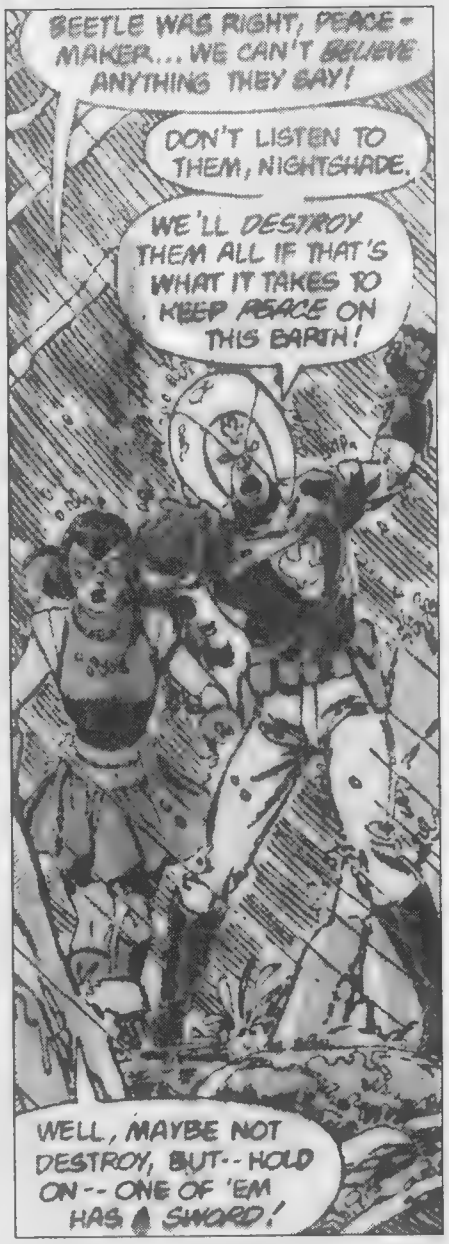
Nightshade appeared with The Suicide Squad (as did villains Punch and Jewlee), often led by Amanda Waller, while the others kept to their own personal adventures.

Occasionally The Peacemaker was used on missions by the covert government action group Checkmate.

The Question last appeared with the current Azrael in 1997.

According to Mark Waid, Image was scheduled to appear in an issue of *Green Lantern*, but, when Len Wein left the series, it never happened.

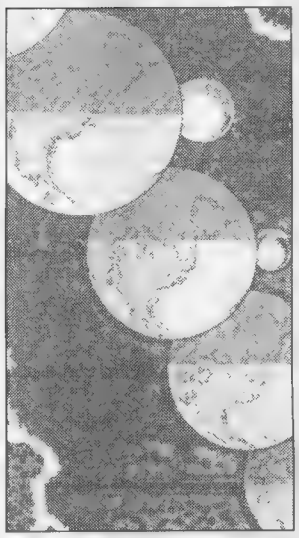
Banshee's only appearance in the DC universe to date is *Crisis* #9. There are plans for a series featuring only the Charlton characters; the proposal has been made to DC's Bob Layton but it hasn't been scheduled yet.



*Nightshade and Peacemaker also joined the DC heroes in **Crisis** #6.*

Between 'Crisis' and 'Zero Hour'

By Jack Abramowitz



Crisis on Infinite Earths: The aftermath

Once upon a time, the heroes of DC inhabited countless parallel universes. The Justice League could be found on Earth-1; the Golden Age Justice Society dwelled on Earth-2. Such Fawcett characters as The Marvel Family were native to Earth-S, while Earth-X was home to Uncle Sam and other characters acquired from Quality. The Crime Syndicate of America came from Earth-Three, while Cary Bates, you, and I supposedly lived on Earth-Prime. But this arrangement was apparently too confusing for new readers. DC, therefore, decided to eliminate it and replace it with an arrangement that was too confusing for *everybody*. The result was the 1985 maxi-series against which all other subsequent "events" have been judged: *Crisis on Infinite Earths*.

The result of the *Crisis* was that the five remaining Earths (1, 2, S, X, and 4 — where Charlton heroes lived) were "smooshed" into one. The resultant Earth was essentially identical to Earth-1 except that there had been super-heroes during World War Two and such "new" heroes as The Blue Beetle were running around.

Rebooting reality

During the period following *Crisis*, things were in a constant state of flux. Characters' lives and histories were frequently "rebooted," causing a terrible domino effect of continuity.

Originally, characters remembered their pre-*Crisis* history. For example, Supergirl died during *Crisis* and was mourned by Superman and Brainiac 5. Then Superman underwent the *Man of Steel* reboot. Supergirl was removed from continuity and later replaced by Matrix from the pocket universe as the current, *non*-Kryptonian Supergirl. Superman's history as Superboy was also eradicated, causing him to be replaced in The Legion by his doppelganger from the aforementioned pocket universe. Legion history was, likewise, rebooted (thanks to Mordru, Glorith, and The Time Trapper), causing the pocket universe Superboy to be replaced by Mon-El or Lar Gand or Valor or M'Onel or Whomever as the inspiration for The Legion. (Laurel Gand/Andromeda was Supergirl's subsequent replacement in Legion continuity.)

Batman's history escaped relatively unscathed, but then-Robin Jason Todd somehow changed from the orphaned son of circus performers slain by Killer Croc to a hoodlum whose father had been slain by Two-Face.

The entire Marvel Family was on hand following *Crisis* but subsequently disappeared. Captain Marvel underwent, not one, but two reboots (in *Shazam!: The New Beginning* and *The Power of Shazam!*, respectively), the second time bringing Mary and Junior with him. Except now Mary also goes by "Captain" and Junior is "CM3."

The post-*Crisis* Question appeared with Blue Beetle but was inconsistent with The Question, who later got his own series. Captain Atom appeared in *DC Comics Presents* in a guise that was later said never to have truly existed. He also

Animal Man had his own crisis in his ongoing series and it cost him his family, at least for a while.

Still around or — Earth-2 may be gone, but there are still plenty of Earths

By Jack Abramowitz

Infinite Earths were destroyed? By definition, "infinite" would imply that there are always more. Even after *Crisis*, there were lots of Earths still around. Here are a few examples:

Crossover Earths: The JLA met the WildC.A.T.S by traveling to an alternate world. Superman visited Madman's Earth. *DC vs. Marvel/Marvel vs. DC*, *Silver Surfer/Green Lantern*, and many other crossovers between those two companies firmly placed them on separate worlds. Definitely more than one universe going on here.

Faux Marvel Earth: Despite the trouble exerted by DC's right hand in trying to establish the pocket-universe Superboy as not exactly being from a parallel universe, the left hand was simultaneously showing Mxyzptlk as a pseudo-Impossible Man to an alternate universe's FF doppelgangers.

Ruined Earth: Chunk, a supporting member of *Flash*'s cast, could teleport people to alternate Earths. They were trashed and uninhabitable but they were definitely there.

Green Cigarette Earth: Animal Man found himself in a parallel world where his wife was less pleasant than the one he had left and there were such strange, new heroes as The Green Cigarette. (There had been a Batman in that world, as well.)

Earth-C: Home of Captain Carrot and his amazing Zoo Crew. "They're not a parallel world," DC tried to explain, "They're a different dimension." Oh, that explains it! All of their parallel worlds survived, as well (Earth C-Minus, Hoppy the Marvel Bunny's world, *etc.*), and the Inferior Five passed through Earth-C looking for Earth-17. Another "dimension"?

*The Legend of Wonder Woman was one of the few post-**Crisis** titles to mention **Crisis** after the fact.*

had a bad reaction with Firestorm's powers that never happened on any other occasion.

Shades of Shade

Shade the Changing Man, original flavor, was a member of The Suicide Squad. Rebooted Shade, Vertigo flavor, has another history for the same individual. (The Vertigo Shade isn't outside the DC universe; he crossed over with John Constantine, who is most definitely DC universe-based.)

Hawkman headaches

And Hawkman. Oh, Hawkman. Hawkman of the Justice League was Katar Hol, even after *Crisis*. Then Katar Hol was rebooted and came to Earth well after his League was disbanded. So who was the JLA's Hawkman? A previously unknown son of the original JSA Hawkman? A Thanagarian spy? No, it was Carter Hall himself, come out of retirement. (My head hurts.)

Reasons for reboots

What caused these reboots? There seemed to be a number of factors.

First, even after *Crisis* hit, the Golden Age Superman, Batman, and Wonder Woman were part of The All-Star Squadron. This was because Mekanique (a tribute to the Maria robot from *Metropolis*, the movie) was sent by Rotwang to hold back the effects of *Crisis*. (How he knew of it and where he got such powerful technology is not clear.) When her mission was done, the robot released the *Crisis* wave. This, no doubt, caused a cascade through time. (Time provided appropriate replacements for the "Big Three" heroes in the forms of Iron Munro, Flying Fox, and Fury.)

Second, Amazons were removed from the time stream. Nobody remembers that the Earth-1 Wonder Woman was also a casualty of *Crisis*. Her mother, Queen Hippolyta, was granted a boon by the gods, who removed the original Amazons from continuity. They were later replaced by the rebooted race in *Wonder Woman* (second series) #1. Wonder Woman first appeared during *Legends*, so her role as a founder of The JLA was retconned to Black Canary.

Third, minds were erased. Originally, the heroes remembered how things had been before *Crisis*. Lyta Trevor, daughter of the now non-existent Earth-2 Wonder Woman, had trouble coping with how she existed. Brainwave Jr. kindly wiped her mind of all memories of what now had never existed.

This appeared to have had some effect, because, several issues later, nobody in Infinity, Inc., had any recollection of the way things had previously been. Soon, nobody remembered the parallel worlds (except for The Psycho Pirate).

A minor 'Crisis'

Finally, there was the "Second Crisis." Animal Man had the distinct honor of being the only post-*Crisis* hero to meet and interact with his pre-*Crisis* counterpart. The worlds were coming back. We got to see The Crime Syndicate and a number of second-stringers reappear, plus a bunch of characters we'd never met before, such as Sunshine Superman and Magic Lantern. (Animal Man then went to Limbo, where he encountered characters awaiting their revamps. The Inferior Five made it out, and Mr. Freeze has done quite nicely for himself. Golden Age Quality's Quicksilver was pictured, but he didn't even get a line. He's now Max Mercury in *Impulse*. Even The Red Bee got another shot, albeit as a ghost, in *Starman*.)

All of this has no doubt had an effect, probably causing the reboots. For example, the Golden Age Superman's presence in World War II kept the modern Superman consistent with his Earth-1 history. Mekanique's releasing of the *Crisis* wave in the 1940s may have snapped the "Superman String," resulting in the delayed appearance of the true post-*Crisis* Man of Steel. We can only guess what domino effect removing the Amazons or the mass post-*Crisis* amnesia may have had on reality.

Reflections of reality

A number of "reflections" of the pre-*Crisis* universe remained. When Superman first met Batman, he reflected how, in another reality, they might have been friends.

Blue Beetle, upon the introduction of Captain Atom, contemplated how familiar he seemed.

Superman hallucinated caped monkeys, horses, and other pre-*Crisis* phenomena (many of which later appeared post-*Crisis* in earnest).

The memories, however vague, of pre-*Crisis* continuity remained hidden in the minds of the heroes.

This is just the tip of the iceberg. This whole paper could be filled with articles explaining the *Crisis*. (Actually, most of it is.)

But this is designed to convey how and why the DC universe remained in a state of disarray from *Crisis* until *Zero Hour* cleared the slates again.

Worlds you haven't missed

By Jack Abramowitz

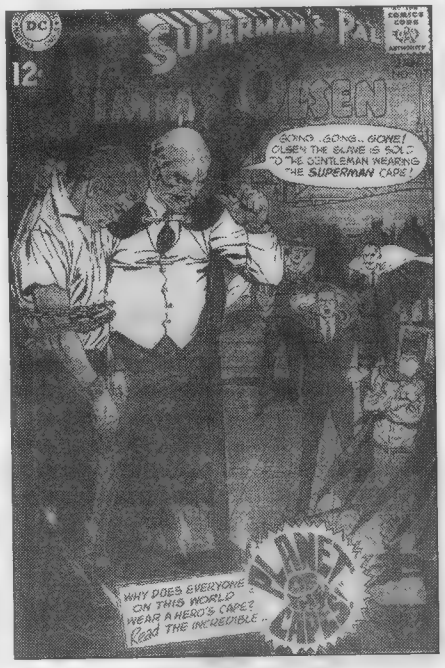
A lot of worlds were destroyed in *Crisis*. Here are some that many were glad to see go:

World of Stone Giants: Early in their career, the original JLA met the inhabitants of an Earth whose natives looked like they all came straight from Easter Island.

World without a Batman: Superman was Bruce Wayne. Why he even needed a Robin was never explained. The Joker was a television comedian without sociopathic tendencies. Yawn. If this world had not been destroyed, it probably would have died of boredom.

World where Superman spent 100 years: On his way to Earth, Kal-El's rocket was shunted into another universe, to a world of cavemen. *Sans* powers, his presence super-evolved them into a futuristic (and ultimately dead) society. He lived to be an old man there, his son ultimately returning him to his universe of origin, where he resumed his infant journey to Earth. (No, this was not an imaginary story!)

Earth-X: Not the home of The Freedom Fighters, this was an earlier world called by the same name. Jimmy Olsen had super powers here and became Steel-Man (based on a fictional character created by author and underworld mastermind Clark Kent). Perry White was a matador, bullfighting being legal on this world.



The Planet of the Capes: Jimmy also stumbled onto this world, where wealthy masters wore capes and slaves went capeless. An alternate universe Jor-El replicated the capes from the visiting Superman, Batman, Robin, and Star Boy of our continuum. (All this just to make that bad "apes" pun?)

Wherever The Super Friends came from: This world was almost identical to Earth-1, except that five heroes used a "Hall of Justice" to train Wendy, Marvin, and Wonder Dog to be super-heroes. Post-*Crisis* Wonder Twins have since appeared, but Wendy, Marv, and the pooch appear to be gone for good.

The Adventures of BUMPKIN BUZZ FLASHBACK SPECIAL

©AND TM 1998 - BRIAN DOUGLAS AHERN

AS I WRITE THIS, AUTUMN LEAVES ARE CHANGING COLOR! BEFORE IT STARTS TO SNOW, LET'S GET IN JUST ONE MORE GAME OF--

CRISIS BADMINTON

STEP ONE: YOU DO NOT PLAY CRISIS BADMINTON WITH A BORING OLD SHUTTLECOCK. YOU USE A REALITY-ALTERING DOOMSDAY BOMB.

UNLIKE ORDINARY BADMINTON, THE OBJECT IS NOT TO SCORE BUT RATHER TO KEEP THE BOMB IN THE AIR AS LONG AS SUPERHUMANLY POSSIBLE.

WITH EACH NEW SERVE, YOU ANNOUNCE THE EARTH ON WHICH YOU ARE PLAYING.

EARTH "C"!

IF YOUR DOOMSDAY BOMB HITS THE GROUND, IT WILL DETONATE.

THE CRISIS THEN ENSUES AS THE BOMB ALTERS REALITY!

THE NEW REALITY TO EMERGE WILL BE MUCH LIKE YOUR OWN, YET SUBTLY DIFFERENT!

A-A MOMENT AGO I WAS ENJOYING A COLD SODA POP--

--AND NOW IT'S A LEMONADE!

OH, PUT MY DRINK DOWN.

ADDITIONAL RULES ARE A REAL PLUS! THE MORE ABSURD THE BETTER.

NET REPRESENTS THE SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM.

GAD! THE DOOMSDAY BOMB HAS PENETRATED THE SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM! TIME OUT!

WHEN PLAYING TEAMS, YOU ARE ALLOWED TO HIT THE DOOMSDAY BOMB BACK AND FORTH AMONGST YOUR OWN TEAMMATES IN ATTEMPT TO GET IT BACK INTO PLAY--

--JUST DON'T LET IT DETONATE!

SCORING: WHOEVER'S SIDE THE BOMB DETONATES ON RECIEVES A DEMERIT POINT. THE FIRST SIDE WITH 24 POINTS LOSES.

I DECREE WHEN THE BOMB GOES THROUGH THE CONTINUUM, THE MULTIVERSE IS DISRUPTED AND WE HAFTA SWITCH SIDES, POINTS, AND IDENTITIES!

THAT'S A DUMB RULE, BUZZ.

JUST GET TO THE OTHER SIDE, SPUNKY.

THINK FAST! IF THE BOMB DETONATES ON YOUR SIDE, YOU CAN REVERSE THE DAMAGES BY SHOUTING OUT THE RESULT OF YOUR REALITY-ALTERATION--

AUNT MAY IS NOW DOCTOR DOOM'S SISTER!

--BUT IT MUST BE IMMEDIATELY UPON BOMB IMPACT!

THIS SHUNTS THE DEMERIT POINT TO YOUR OPPONENT, BUT IT ONLY WORKS ON A PLAY STARTED ON THEIR SERVE.

POINTS CAN EVEN BE ADDED OR SUBTRACTED DEPENDING ON COOLNESS OR LAMENESS OF SUGGESTED "STORY".

THE WHOLE IDEA IS NOT SO MUCH TO WIN AS TO KEEP THE BOMB IN THE AIR SO LONG YOU FORGET WHOSE SERVE IT IS.

EARTH "SASSAFRASS"!

RIDICULE THE CONTINUITY SOUP AND EXERCISE ALL AT THE SAME TIME!

JOIN US NEXT TIME FOR: SERVES YOU RIGHT OR "A WHOLE NEW RACKET"

Oh, So? From Page 24

help celebrate the continuing wonderfulness of comics, please give generously to the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund.

That's all. It's hot. I'm going to go turn up the air and re-read the entire *Sandman* series. And crank the stereo.

*[Names of folks at the **CBG** booth will be found in the indicia each issue.*

You probably got to meet Publisher Claude Chmiel and ad sales staffers Meredith Miller and John Diser. Standing and running around on con floors are the reasons I tend not to wear high-heeled shoes at cons.]

Burt Eaves
4204 Pilon Point
San Diego, CA 92130

This year's San Diego comics con was extra special for me, since I got to meet Chris Ware, creator of *The Acme Novelty Library*.

Having spent too much time in the autograph area, I rushed to the Fantagraphics booth, only to find that he had finished signing and was in the middle of selling some of his art. The person buying the art spoke of what a great fan he was and turned out to be Matt Groening of *The Simpsons*. Chris was very humble and seemed to have trouble believing the praise Groening was giving him. We often forget how the people in our hobby are fans also. Even though Ware had no obligation to sign any more, he told me to follow him to a less crowded area and proceeded to sign all of my comic books. He even drew a sketch for me and thanked me for enjoying his work. I don't think you would get the same response from professional athletes who sell their autographs to their fans.

Jeff Dyer
1003 W. 5th St.
Dubuque, IA 52001

There are some great people in the comic-book industry. I mean, really great.

A few weeks ago, I had a letter printed about Julius Schwartz. I mentioned how disappointed I was that his Wizard World appearance didn't seem to draw much attention from fans. Basically, I asked comics fans to take notice of the living legends (such as Schwartz). To my delight, a few days after that issue's release, I received a photo postcard from him, thanking me for the kind words. He didn't need to do that, and I sure didn't expect it. But it just shows you the class this man has.

I also sent a letter to Kurt Schaffenberger, in response to your recent article about his hospitalization. I thanked him for his wonderful art (which I first experienced in *Shazam!* and *Superboy*). Again, to my surprise, I received a thank-you card. This one was from his wife, Dorothy Schaffenberger. She was extremely kind and also included an autographed card from him. She explained that his surgery had gone well, but his recovery is still going to be a long process. Once again: another example of the wonderful people we have in this industry.

The size of the comic-book business is such that the creators are actually accessible. In what other entertainment medium can fans meet or communicate with their heroes and sometimes get personal responses? For that, we can be thankful the comics industry isn't too large (especially when compared to film, television, or music).

Thank you, Mr. Schwartz and Mr. and Mrs. Schaffenberger. You've brought joy to so many. And you still do.

Frank Antonides
1395 Linda Vista Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91103

I just wanted to thank all of the organizers of the San Diego convention's Golden Age panels for having done a tremendous job. Over the last six years I have been consistently wowed by these events and would like to encourage everyone to attend and support this opportunity to hear the founders of the comics industry tell their stories. This year's guest of honor, Joe Simon, proved to be an extraordinary choice. Besides being a marvelously articulate man full of fun and interesting anecdotes, Joe proved to be as kind a gentleman as you might want to meet.

We need the convention to showcase the Golden Age artists in attendance more visibly throughout the entire show, not just during panels. Golden Age creators sitting unheralded in the Artists Alley is not nearly tribute enough to the collective creative contribution these men and women have made to the field. Perhaps one year the convention's theme could be a celebration of the Golden Age of comics. Come on, San Diego, give this group something special.

Recreating a newsstand of the Golden Age as a backdrop to feature these pioneer artists would be one idea. Get the industry to help finance a booth and/or exhibit and provide the recognition for these creators that they deserve.

Alan Brinson
104 Huntcliff Rd.
New Bern, NC 28560

I know it's no big deal, but I found a mistake in one of your issues. In #1290 in the "Witchblade Sings" paragraph (*Mass o' Media*, page 12) you have "Megadeath's Peter Steele as Ian Nottigham." First, it's not Megadeath, it's Megadeth. Also, Peter Steele is not in the band Megadeth. He's in the band Type O Negative. Thought you might like to know.

[Yikes! No excuses here. We appreciate the correction.]

Dear Mr. Silver Age,

I can't believe that when they rebooted Superman, the new background included Martha being married to a rich department-store owner before she married Jonathan! Why don't today's creators and editors follow the example set by the Silver Age and leave well enough alone?

Kara Z.
Argo City

Mr. Silver Age says: I sympathize, Kara, and I agree with the spirit of your tirade. But when it comes to the facts, I'm afraid we may have some problems. Because, if there's one motto DC *didn't* follow during the Silver Age, it was "Let's leave well enough alone."

In fact, I'm betting that many, many bits of business you accept as gospel aren't really the way they wound up happening by the time people were done fiddling with them. At some point, especially late in the Silver Age, apparently as the Idea Barrel was emptying out, some basic and pivotal plot points were altered for the sake of that month's story.

And since nobody ever went to the trouble of later wiping those stories away, it was up to us fans to act as if they'd never existed and never bring them up. That's a useful attitude to keep handy as you read those classics, because Silver Age comics are riddled with revisions that can make a fan's hair stand on end. Superman comics alone account for, by my rough estimate, several billion of these.

Fortunately, each of the problems is buried inside one issue, making it easy to ignore or forget them. Unfortunately, I've got a lot of those comics, and I'm not shy about exhuming them. So here's your chance to take a really easy Mr. Silver Age True or False pop quiz about Superman's life, focusing this time just on events *until he was adopted*. It's an easy quiz because every statement below, hard as it may be to believe, is False.

1. Jor-El correctly predicted that Krypton would explode, due to a chain reaction in the planet's uranium core.

Sadly, Jor-El was mistaken, according to "The Man Who Destroyed Krypton!" in *Superman* #205 (Apr 68). In that tale, a sinister alien called Black Zero confronted The Man of Steel, speaking Kryptonese. The villain shocked Supes by explaining that BZ had been a saboteur assigned by space pirates to destroy Krypton before it entered the space age and threatened their rule.

Black Zero learned the Science Council didn't believe Zor-El's warning of imminent destruction, so he checked the core himself. He found the Council was right — the chain reaction was dying down. So the dastardly villain shot a nuclear rocket into the core to reignite it. "I'm doing Jor-El a favor!" he chortled. "Making his prediction come true!" He flew away and Krypton went boom.

2. Jor-El and Lara perished on Krypton after sending Kal-El's rocket into space.

Pretty basic, right? Unfortunately, pretty basically wrong, according to "Superboy's Darkest Secret!" in *Superboy* #158 (Jul 69). In that tale, Superboy was shocked to intercept a deep-space message being broadcast by his parents. Tracking it to its source, he found them entombed in a rocket that had turned to kryptonite.

To make a long story short, a prerecorded message from Jor-El explained that Jor suspected a scientist working with them during Krypton's final moments might try to save them by shooting them away in an experimental rocket, even though they had declined his offer.

honored their wish, so Jor and Lara are still floating out there somewhere.

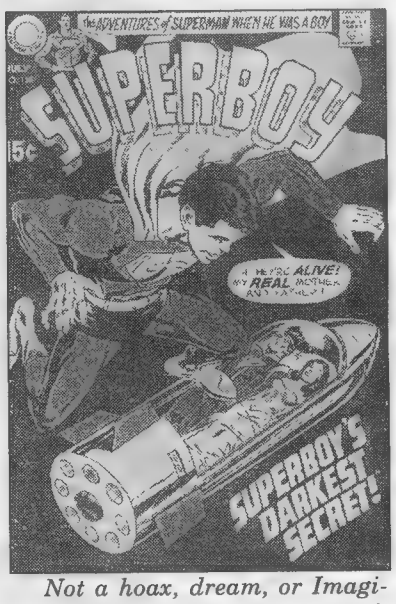
3. Kal-El was a couple years old when he landed on Earth.

Kal learned he was, in fact, at least 102 years old when he landed on Earth, according to "100 Years — Lost, Strayed or Stolen!" in *Action Comics* #370 (Dec 68). Vivid nightmares of his rocket landing in a weird civilization led him to analyze the age of his Kryptonian spaceship. He learned that it was pretty dang old, even though he knew it had been built just before he was placed in it.

"Will I ever solve this mystery?" he pondered. "No!" the caption told us, as the story went on to explain what The Man of Steel would never learn (what a lucky guy). And that was that the blast that had destroyed Krypton had opened a space warp in the cos-

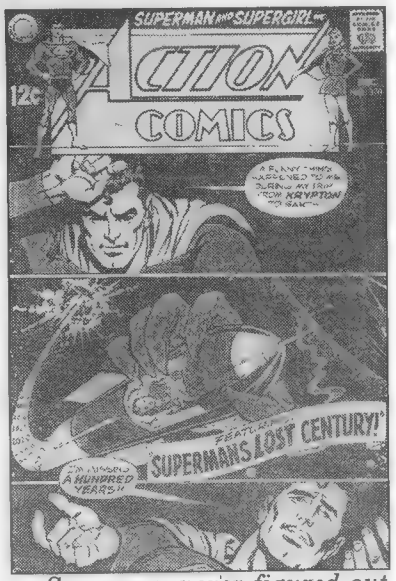
Silver Age Superman: Everything you know is wrong

Superman confronted Black Zero, who didn't mind confessing that Jor-El missed the boat on his prediction that Krypton was gonna explode in ***Superman*** *#205.*



Not a hoax, dream, or Imaginary Story! Jor-El and Lara really were floating in space until Superboy grew to be a teen, as revealed in ***Superboy*** *#158. Brrr.*

The tape revealed that the reason they had refused to go was that Jor had been fatally contaminated with kryptonite radiation while exploring Krypton's core, and he had infected Lara before finding an antidote that had saved Kal. He asked that their bodies not be revived, if someday they were found in space, because they would die, anyway. Superboy



Superman never figured out why his rocket was more than 100 years old, but ***we*** *learned the details — even if we didn't want to — in* ***Action*** *#370.*

Superman lived a full life while living in another cosmos after his rocket ship flew through a space warp. The disconcerting details were shown in ***Action*** *#370.*

Reprint Warning!

Are you for some unknown reason feeling the urge to read these better-forgotten stories but can't find the originals? Not too surprisingly, they don't lead the list of most-reprinted tales. But, amazingly enough, two of the six mentioned here have reappeared, like the bad pennies they are.

- "Superboy's First Foster Parents!" from *Superboy* #133 was reprinted in *Superman Family* #165.
- "Superboy's Darkest Secret!" from *Superboy* #158, perhaps the most amazing one to reprint of all, reared its head again in the *Superboy-Legion* Tempo paperback. So at least it isn't easy to find.

Do you have a favorite better-forgotten story? Did we miss some just charting Kal's trip to Earth? I'm betting we did. So write to *Oh, So?* and tell us! If nothing else, it'll warn us about which comics we really don't want to go looking for.

And who knows? Maybe we'll report on another bundle of these tales in the future so we can shatter a few more of your cherished beliefs about DC heroes. Like how Joe Chill killed the Waynes during a random holdup ...

One warning: Don't write in telling us about Mopee. We're already trying really hard to forget him.

mos' fabric that had pushed Kal-El's ship into another dimension. There he grew to adulthood, married, and had all kinds of adventures for the next 100 years before being de-aged into a baby again and returning through the space warp for reasons I won't spoil here. Aren't you glad you know?

The Kents never got around to telling Clark that he wasn't an only child, as revealed in ***Superboy*** *#108. Hey, it slipped their minds.*

4. Clark was the Kents' only child.

Superboy learned about "The Kent's First Super-Son!" in *Superboy* #108 (Oct 63). He tracked a blonde teen villain, Mighto, to his other-worldly lair, where Superboy was shocked to discover an array of photos and memorabilia indicating Mighto previously had lived with his own foster-parents. But the Kents denied any knowledge of this bozo.

So Superboy super-hypnotized them, and they spilled their guts.

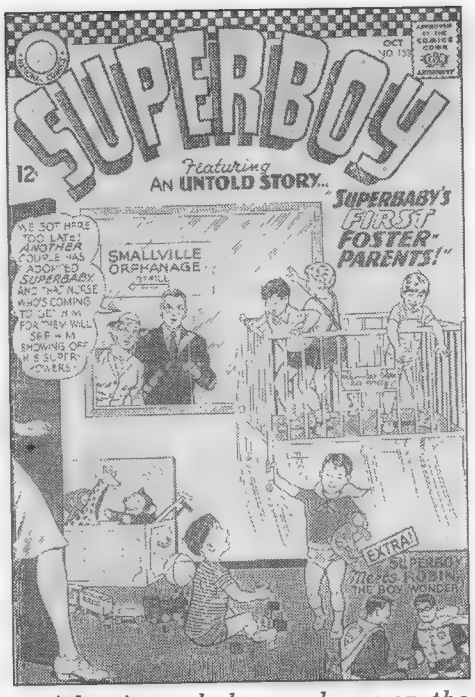
It turned out Mighto was the son of the Kent's handyman, who apparently died in an accident. They adopted him, only to discover he had amazing super powers. After living with the Kents until he was a teen-ager, events turned Mighto evil.

I won't tell you what's really going on, but I will tell you that my favorite part is that, in order to ensure his plans weren't uncovered, Mighto not only hypnotized the Kents into forgetting he'd lived with them for many years, but he also "mass-hypnotized" everyone in Smallville and destroyed his adoption papers and all newspaper records of his existence! Man, do I love the Silver Age!

5. After Kal-El landed on Earth, he was immediately adopted by the Kents.

No doubt to return the favor for Clark's foster-parents adopting a baby before he got there, it turned out that he had also been adopted by another family before the Kents laid claim to him.

It was all revealed in "Superboy's



Adopting a baby you leave on the doorstep the night before takes pinpoint precision, as the Kents learn, when someone else adopts Kal in ***Superboy*** *#133.*

First Foster-Parents!" in *Superboy* #133 (Oct 66). The Kents found Kal and dropped him on the doorstep of the Smallville Orphanage, as usual.

But before they could return to adopt him, he was adopted by "Deacon" Dugan, a con man who masqueraded as a minister in order to be approved for adopting the little tyke.

It turned out that Superbaby was a dead ringer for the richest baby alive, and the Deacon planned to make a switch.

I don't think we need to drop a spoiler warning in here if I reveal that his plan didn't quite work out, and Superbaby wound up back in the orphanage, where the Kents quickly applied to adopt him. Whew.

6. OK, they did some dumb things back then, but at least Superman didn't have some stupid clone created long after the fact that came back to haunt him for a long time the way that dumb Spider-clone did.

Don't bet the rent money on that. And I'm not even talking about that weird sand creature from Qarrm who siphoned off Supe's powers in *Superman* #233 (Jan 71).

He only lasted 10 issues or so, which was a few weeks of Superman's life in comic-book terms. No, we're talking about a Superman clone who lasted years. And years and years and years.

In the three-part novel "The Two Faces of Superman!" in *Superman* #137 (May 60), we learn that, after Jor-El and Lara shot Kal's rocket into space (and apparently after it returned from that 100-year space warp), it glanced off a giant alien space ship.

The blow jarred a ray gun into operation, which created "a duplicate of the rocket and everything inside it, including the tiny infant!„

One rocket landed on the Kent's farm, yadda yadda. The other landed at the mountain retreat of criminal "Wolf" Derek and his wife, Bonnie. Wolf's reaction to seeing a tiny baby crawl out of the rocket was to shoot the kid with a tommy gun. When that failed to make much impact, the pair decided to raise him as their own.

Thus, while the Kents were teaching Clark not to cross against the light, the Dereks were teaching Super-Brat to punch out cops.

The criminals used Super-Brat to help with their robberies. He grew to become the teen-age Super-Bully, who caused Superboy such problems as creating hurricanes in Smallville with his super-breath and (gasp!) trying to steal his dog. But still, Super-Bully kept his presence a secret and didn't try to, oh, take over the world or anything. Not until he became the grown-up Super-Menace did he reveal himself to Superman and lure him into a kryptonite trap. Fortunately, Superman prevailed, and Super-Menace, um, went away (read it to find out how).

But this doesn't negate the fact that throughout Superman's life, from the day he landed on Earth until he was that 29-year-old adult he always was back then, he had a clone wandering around pulling robberies and dissing Krypto. Not a hoax, not a dream, not an Imaginary Story. Scary, huh?

There remains only one saving grace to this "Untold Story" (oh, if only it

Unknown to Superman, he had an exact clone who grew up alongside him and waited many years before confronting him, as shown in ***Superman*** *#137. Does this sound familiar? Nah.*

were), and it is one today's comics creators might keep in mind: The whole thing took place in one issue. So readers who missed it or didn't like it — and I've gotta be thinking that was probably most of us who stopped to think about what it meant for every Superboy story we were ever going to read — didn't have to worry, because another new story was coming next issue.

Silver Age Memories

You're kidding me! ***Adventure Comics*** *is going to replace those cool Congorilla stories with tales about that weird Bizarro World? And the best Bits of Bizarro Business are going to run in the Smallville Mailsack? Oh man, this idea is never going to last! [From* ***Action Comics*** *#277 (Jun 61), across the gutter from that month's Superman's Secret Message from the Supermen of America Club.]*

— Craig Shutt

SUN, OCT 11

Motor City Comic Con, Dearborn, Mich. Final day. See Calendar Notes.

Born on this date:
Bruce Hamilton
Kathryn Mayer
Joe Simon (1915)
Todd R. Reis (1949)
Jim Woodring (1952)
Patrick J. Williams (1958) **40** years ago

MON, OCT 12

Columbus Day — no mail delivery

Thanksgiving Day (Canada)

Born on this date:
Roger Armstrong (1917)
Pat Brady (1947)
Dan Abnett (1965)

TUES, OCT 13

CBG **#1302** ships — our Animation Spectacular issue, featuring coverage of *South Park*, *The Simpsons*, and more.

Born on this date:
Margaret Clark
Ed Magalong
Harry Hershfield (1885)
Robert M. Ingersoll (1952)

WED, OCT 14

Born on this date:
Charlie Williams (1952)
Michael R. Hawkins (1965)
Brandon Peterson (1969)

THURS, OCT 15

Creepy & Eerie with Richard Corben exhibit opens at the Words & Pictures Museum in Northampton, Mass. See Calendar Notes.

Born on this date:
Vince Colletta
Cam Kennedy (1944)

FRI, OCT 16

Born on this date:
Joe Sinnott (1926)
Bob Hall (1944)
Mark Badger (1958) **40** years ago

SAT, OCT 17

Marvel Knights exhibit panel discussion, creator signing, and gallery reception at the Words & Pictures Museum. See museum entry under Continuing This Week in Calendar Notes.

Super-Con III begins in Oakland, Calif. See Calendar Notes.

Born on this date:
Jerry Siegel (1914)
Bill Holbrook (1958) **40** years ago

CBG Calendar Notes

Shows listed are multiple-day, non-mall-show events with the primary focus on comic books. Further information about these and other shows, as well as creator appearances, can be found each week in the *CBG* features *What, Where, and When* and *Now Appearing*.

• **Creepy & Eerie with Richard Corben** exhibit, Oct. 15-January 1999 at the Words & Pictures Museum, in Northampton, Mass. Curated in collaboration with *Heavy Metal* magazine, this exhibit features a wide variety of Corben's work, including paintings which mix oils, acrylics, airbrush, and markers. The exhibit is not intended for children. See entry under Continuing This Week for museum info.

• **Motor City Comic Con**, Oct. 10 and 11 at the Dearborn Civic Center, 15801 Michigan Ave. at Greenfield Rd., Dearborn, Mich. Guests include: Dan Brereton, Mark Crilley, Guy Davis, Adam Hughes, Joe Jusko, and Tim Truman. Hours: Saturday 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission: $8/day; $12/both days. Info: (248) 426-8059.

• **Super-Con III**, Oct. 17 and 18 at the Oakland Convention Center, 10th & Broadway in Oakland, Calif. Guest include Art Adams, Brent Anderson, Sergio Aragonés, Phil Jiminez, Erik Larsen, and Mike Mignola. Info: (916) 485-1887.

Continuing This Week

• **American Dream Gallery**, 72 Walcot St., Bath, United Kingdom. Info: David Currie at 01225 424881. **Current exhibit: 60 Years of Superman** exhibit, through Nov. 30. A retrospective of the career of the world's first super-hero. Includes personal folio art by industry professionals exhibited for the first time.

• **Cartoon Art Museum**, 814 Mission St., San Francisco, CA. Call for updates on current exhibits: (415) CAR-TOON.

• **The Genius of Winsor McCay**, through Dec. 30 at the Ohio State University Cartoon Research Library Reading Room Gallery, 27 West 17th Ave. Mall, Columbus, OH.

• **Humor in a Jugular Vein, An Expanded Exhibition of the Art, Artists, and Artifacts of *Mad* Magazine**, through Nov. 21 at the Columbus College of Art and Design's Joseph V. Canzani Center, 60 Cleveland Ave., Columbus, OH. Items on display are from the collection of Mark J. Cohen and Rose Marie McDaniel.

• **International Museum of Cartoon Art**, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton, FL 33432. Call for updates on current exhibits: (561) 391-2200.

• **A Sampling of Chaos** exhibit of comics art, comic books, toys, games, and other Chaos Comics products will be on display through Oct. 23 at the Art Institute of Phoenix Gallery, 2233 W. Dunlap Ave., Phoenix, AZ. A public reception will be held Thursday, Oct. 15, with eight to 10 Chaos artists in attendance to sign comics and visit with guests. Info: (800) 474-2479 or (602) 678-4300.

• **Words & Pictures Museum**, 140 Main St., Northampton, MA. Call for updates on current exhibits: (413) 586-8545. **Current exhibit: Marvel Knights** exhibit of super-hero art by Marvel and Event artists, including Joe Jusko, Jae Lee, Jimmy Palmiotti, Joe Quesada, Mark Texeira, and Bernie Wrightson, through January 1999. The exhibit will showcase work from each of the four Marvel Knights titles: *Black Panther, Daredevil, Inhumans,* and *Punisher,* including covers, interior work, and scripts, as well as such Event comics as *Ash* and *Painkiller Jane*. Most of the creators whose work is on display will appear at the museum Saturday, Oct. 17, for a 10:30 a.m. panel discussion, creator signing 1:30-4:30 p.m., and gallery reception 7-9 p.m. Tickets for the evening reception are $15; $10 for museum members.

New comics scheduled to ship this week

The following information is taken from publisher and distributor solicitations and updates and is as accurate as possible at press time. Check with your local retailer to find out what day new comics go on the shelves. Comics that are delayed or rescheduled will be tracked in future *CBG Calendars*.

Note: ✪ indicates a rescheduled comic book that appeared in a previous *CBG Calendar*.

Archie Comics

Betty & Veronica Digest #100, $1.95

Chaos Comics

Lady Death #10, $2.95

Dark Horse Comics

Buffy the Vampire Slayer: The Dust Waltz TPB, $9.95
Dark Horse Presents #136, $2.95
Fax from Sarajevo TPB, $16.95
Masakazu Katsura's Shadow Lady I: Dangerous Love #1 (of 7), $2.50
Mask: Toys in the Attic #3 (of 4), $2.95
Sin City: Just Another Saturday Night, $2.50
✪ *Star Wars: A New Hope Manga* #3 (of 4), $9.95 (Sep. 6-12)
Star Wars: A New Hope Manga #4 (of 4), $9.95

DC Comics

Animaniacs #43, $1.99
Aquaman #50, $1.99
Babylon 5: The Price of Peace TPB, $9.95
Batman #560, $1.99
Batman: Dark Knight of the Round Table #1 (of 2), $4.95
Batman: The Long Halloween HC, $29.95
Books of Magic #55, $2.50
Green Lantern 3-D #1, $3.95
Hardcore Station #6 (of 6), $2.50
Impulse #43, $2.25
JLA: Year One #12 (of 12), $2.95
Legends of the DC Universe #11, $1.99
Legionnaires #66, $2.50
Minx #3, $2.50
Nightwing #26, $1.99
Resurrection Man #19, $2.50
Scooby-Doo #17, $1.99
Superman Adventures #26, $1.99
Superman: The Dark Side #3 (of 3), $4.95
Superman: Man of Steel #84, $1.99
Superman: War of the Worlds, $5.95
Transmetropolitan #16, $2.50

Gemstone Publishing

Haunt of Fear Annual #5, $13.50
Panic #8, $2.50
Tales from the Crypt #26, $2.50
Valor #3, $2.50

Image Comics

DV8 #23, $2.50
Jim Lee's C•23 #7, $2.50

Marvel Comics

Alpha Flight #17, $1.99
Avengers Forever #1 (of 12), $2.99
Baby's First Deadpool Book, $2.99
Black Panther #2 (two covers), $2.50
✪ *Blade* #3 (of 6), $2.99 (Oct. 4-10)
Dracula: Lord of the Undead #1 (of 3), $2.99
Generation X #45, $1.99
Giant-Sized Spider-Man, $3.99
Iron Man #11, $1.99
Marvel Universe #7, $1.99
Mutant X #3, $1.99
Spider-Girl #3, $1.99
Spider-Man: The Manga #22, $2.99
Supernaturals #2 (of 4), $3.99
Wolverine: Black Rio, $5.99
X-Force/Champions '98, $3.50
X-Men #82, $1.99

Oni Press

Jay & Silent Bob #4 (of 4), $2.95

Topps Comics

Xena, Warrior Princess: Wrath of Hera #2 (of 2) (two covers), $2.95

Viz Communications

Dragonball #8 (of 12), $2.95
Galaxy Express 999 Vol. 1 TPB, $16.95
Inu-Yasha: A Feudal Fairy Tale Part Two #4 (of 9), $3.25
Pulp Vol. 2 #11, $5.95

Publishers

To see your comics listed here, please supply the exact shipping date for each title *as soon as possible*, preferably at least one month ahead of time. Send the information to: Maggie Thompson, CBG Calendar, 700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990. The same goes for any other announcements, additions, and corrections.

Shipping notes and updates

• **Confirmed shipping:** We have received confirmation that the following titles have shipped and should be available in stores. This reflects shipping information received through Sept. 18.

Anderson: *Absence of Light* #3, $2.50 (Aug)
Avatar: *Threshold* #7 (3 covers), $4.95 (nude ed., $6) (Aug)
Awesome: *Re:Gex* #1, $2.50 (Jun)
Bigger Betty: *James Murphy's August* #1, $2.95 (Aug)
Krane #1, $2.95 (Aug)
Blatant: *Sloth Park* #1, $2.95 (Jun)
Caliber: *Knights of the Round Table*, $3.95 (May)
CPM: *Midnight Panther: School Daze* #5, $2.95 (Aug)
Urotsukidoji: Legend of the Overfiend #2, $2.95 (Aug)
Davdez: *Demon Hunter* #1, $2.50 (Aug)
Vengeful Skye #1, $2.95 (May)
Egmont: *2000 A.D.* #1107-1109, $2.95 (Aug)
Metaphrog: *Strange Weather Lately* #6, $3 (Aug)

• **Sept. 27-Oct. 3:** The following items have been added to publishers' shipping schedules for this week, in addition to those items listed in previous *CBG Calendars*.

Acclaim: *Turok Seeds of Evil* (2 covers), $4.99 (Sep)
Amaze Ink/Slave Labor: *Potential: Unit Three: Mechanisms of Evolution*, $4.95 (Sep)
X-Ray Comics #3, $2.95 (Aug)
Archie: *Pals 'n' Gals Double Digest* #37, $2.95 (Sep. 13-19)
Claypool: *Elvira* #65, $2.50 (Sep)
Crusade: *Shi: Heaven & Earth TPB*, $15.95 (Jun)
Deep Sea: *Reid Fleming: Rogues to Riches TPB*, $13.95 (Aug)
Drawn & Quarterly: *Extended Dream of Mr. D.* #1 (of 3), $3.50 (Aug)
Hyperwerks: *Deity Vol. 2* #1, $2.95 (Sep)
Image: *Automation* #1 (of 3), $2.95 (Sep)
Curse of the Spawn #24, $1.95 (Aug)
A Distant Soil #26, $2.95 (Sep)
Espers: Black Magic TPB, $14.95 (Sep)
Jinx: Torso #1, $3.95 (Aug)
Leave It to Chance #11, $2.95 (Jul)
Savage Dragon #53, $2.50 (Sep)
Spawn #76, $1.95 (Jul)
Mock Man: *H.P. Lovecraft's The Dream-Quest of Unknown Kadath* #4 (of 5), $2.95 (Aug)
Oni: *Whiteout* #3 (of 4), $2.95 (Sep. 13-19)
Red Eye: *Valentine* #4 (of 6), $2.95 (Aug)
Red Ink: *Non* #3, $3 (Sep)
Solson: *Perspective Drawing*, $19.95 (Aug)
Topps: *Xena, Warrior Princess Wrath of Hera* #1 (of 2) (2 covers), $2.95 (Sep. 13-19)

the comics PANEL

This week's panel! (and ???)

STAFF EDITION

A round-robin review of some of today's noteworthy comic books!

Tranquility #1

Dreamsmith Studios, b/w, $2.50

In the near future, the Lunar Exploration and Development Corporation recruits workers for its moon colony with empty promises and keeps wages so low they can't afford to leave. Tranquility is a clone serving as one of the company's brutal Security Operations officers, but she, too, dreams of escape to Earth. By Fred Van Lente and Steve Ellis. Reviewed from a photocopy. ***Scheduled for September release.***

Joyce: The high-tech "company store" trap that is the basis for this series is not unusual in science fiction. There's one problem the first issue fails to address: An underground movement has built a shuttle to send someone to Earth to blow the whistle on the company. If they have access to the materials and the technical smarts to attempt that, why the *heck* hasn't someone just built a transmitter to tell Earth the workers' side of the story?

Possible plot holes aside, the story is intriguing, with an interesting art style (though I'd also like to know why everyone's wearing outsized leg armor from the knees down. Something to do with the gravity, perhaps?) **B.**

John: It's *Aeon Flux* by way of *Total Recall,* with a brief stop at Jimmie (*Amanda and Gunn*) Robinson's (or maybe *Buck Godot*'s) to pick up the talking gun. (Made me miss the talking bomb from *Dark Star*, so nostalgia points there.) *Way* too frenetic yet for the casual reader, but worth keeping an eye on. **C+.**

Brent: Oh joy, yet another tough-female-with-a-gun story. This story has more stereotypical science-fiction elements than one cares to count. The talking gun is kinda funny, but its comments get old halfway through the story. As far as the gun betraying Tranquility, did anyone really expect that it would? The story doesn't generate enough interest to make readers care if the rebels succeed. Give future issues a pass. **D.**

Maggie: The issue's a rarity among a lot of current SF comics in that the art and storytelling are clear enough to provoke the sort of nitpicking in these reviews. For example, there's a panel that apparently using a handprint for ID purposes, but Tranquility operates it successfully with her *gloved* hand.

The point is that the art is good enough that the reader notices the glitch. SF readers have seen some of this plot before — but super-hero comics have a lot in common with each other, too. Entertaining on its own and promising for the future. **B+.**

Panel's grade: C

Oracle: A Trespassers Mystery

Amazing Montage, b/w, 96 pages, $4.95

Tabloid reporter Raymond Fishstamp travels to a small college town to "investigate" a ghost story. Several suspicious happenings lead Fish into an investigation that threatens both his life and that of his new girlfriend, psychic Delphinia "Finn" Morgan. ***Available now.***

Maggie: Actually a prequel to Joe Zabel's *Trespassers* series, this provides the first meeting of Fish and Morgan and takes place in the Ohio University town of Athens.

The idea behind Amazing Montage is to bring "the modern mystery genre to comics." This can be trickier than it sounds, since the art has to be clear (in order to convey visual clues) and convincing in both settings and character designs. Moreover, the storyteller risks herky-jerkey pacing, since the story must combine action (to keep the reader's attention) and often wordy explanations (to tie up the loose ends). It's not easy to pull off, especially when a long story aims at realism (as opposed to, say, solving The Riddler's clues to find out what his next job will be). Zabel is building a solid body of better-than-average whodunnits. **B.**

John: Joe Zabel's been at the forefront of attempts to resuscitate mystery comics for a long time, and he's getting better at the craft with every effort. Unfortunately, the challenge remains that there's just not a huge pool of readers in comics patient enough to follow a methodical investigation by anybody not dressed as a bat. Maybe some Tarantino snappy patter would do the trick next time out?

Not to be forgotten: At 96 pages for $4.95, it's one of the better bargains of the year. **B.**

Brent: Zabel's story has a number of cliffhangers, but not much investigation. The obligatory sex scenes (so integral to a mystery story — just what is he investigating at that point?) are handled well. The story had a contrived ending that reeked of many of the complaints leveled at the fictional detectives at the end of *Murder by Death*. While not up to the caliber of *Ms. Tree*, *Trespassers* mysteries are an interesting diversion from standard super-hero crimefighting. **B.**

Joyce: This is really more of a suspense story than a mystery: Though it contains a mystery, neither the reader nor the main characters get enough information to solve it until a bad guy confesses at the end. Also, the way writer Fish gets caught up in events seems contrived, as he takes an approach to researching a story that is both unprofessional and counterproductive. That aside, it's entertaining and well-drawn. **B-.**

Panel's grade: B

Box Office Poison #10

Antarctic Press, b/w, $2.95

Golden Age creator Irving Flavor is attempting to get what's due him from Zoom Comics, publisher of *Nightstalker*, which Flavor created and had stolen from him. Ed, his assistant, is offered a job by Zoom. ***Available now.***

Joyce: Creator Alex Robinson kindly provides new readers with a short summary of recent events in the series and a line-up of the main characters. Unfortunately, the first page of this issue could lose them right there; it has no apparent connection with anything else in the issue or with the "What goes on" summary in front.

After that, it's easier to follow, with an intriguing story (with a sequence in the subway that's a hoot) and interesting characters. One section is hard to read, though — columns of text are inserted into a sequence of pages, making it hard to make sense of both the main story and the strips of text. This is basically a good series which sometimes suffers from flaws in the presentation. **B.**

Brent: *Box Office Poison* has an interesting take on creators' rights, and this issue sets up several subplots that hopefully will be resolved soon. Will Ed take Zoom's job offer, essentially selling out Mr. Flavor? Will Jane tell Sherman how she feels about him? Will Mr. Flavor get the recognition he deserves? Tune in next issue. Oh, wait, that was inspired by the channel-flipping nature of the opening page. This is a great story and readers are advised to pick up back issues quickly. **A.**

Maggie: Sometimes the series deals with the soap opera of character relationships; sometimes (because of the Zoom storyline and character interests) it offers satire on the comics industry. Neither script nor art are eye-popping or memorable, but the story moves briskly and the storytelling is usually clear. A memorable moment involves a quick glimpse of the Zoom receptionist; there's a convincing real-world feel to the intertwined stories. The upcoming trade paperback of #0-5 is scheduled shortly and would make a great place to start. **B.**

John: If you've been following this series for a while, you know Robinson's story skips around to follow various members of the ensemble — and as they're not equally interesting, each issue is a hit-or-miss affair. While Ed and Irving's story is the most interesting, even staunch foes of big business may find a caricauturish feel to the depiction of Zoom Comics thus far in this series. *Amorality* is one thing, but it's hard to imagine any capitalist system surviving for long if it regularly rewarded actively evil and stupid companies like this. **B-.**

Panel's grade: B+

The 1998 Mr. Silver Age Trivia Challenge

Dear Mr. Silver Age,

Hey, how did the Fans make out this year against the Pros in the annual Pro/Fan Silver Age Trivia Challenge at the Chicago comic convention? Please don't tell me the Fans were pulverized again!

Arthur B.
Gotham City

Mr. Silver Age says: The Fans did considerably better this year, Art, and, in fact, at about the halfway point, it was darn close (Pros: 170, Fans: 140). But then the Pros stopped playing around and poured it on, beating the Fans 840 to 220.

This happened despite Mr. Silver Age's best efforts to find ways to aid the Fans' cause (and keep things interesting) at the end. That included making each question in the Lightning Round worth 40 points apiece and adding an additional 470-point bonus onto the final regular-category question, Letters Columns — a category, I might add, that the Fans requested as time was running out in the competition.

But alas, despite remembering last year's category and allegedly memorizing the letters-page names for more than 60 comics, they overlooked *Captain Action*.

(Rumor has it the Fans have vowed to memorize every page of the Captain's five issues for next year's competition. Sadly, by next year CA will be old news and we'll be loading up on questions about B'wana Beast. Or not.)

The Pro team this year consisted of Chuck Dixon, Tony Isabella, Dan Jurgens, and Mark Waid, while last year's Fan team of Todd Allen, Mike Chary, Matt Holmes, and Sidne Gail Ward returned intact.

Despite the final score, it was a great competition. Everyone walked away entertained and, of course, much more knowledgeable about the important things in life.

How would *you* have done up there on the panel? Take the Trivia Challenge and see! Keep in mind that speed in buzzing in counted as much as knowledge, and you don't have millions (OK, hundreds) of fans watching and waiting for you to screw up.

As Mr. Silver Age is known to say, they're all easy if you know 'em! Give the challenge a try. Just remember — this is not an open-book test. Good luck!

An answer key can be found on Page 105. Don't peek!

POINT VALUES

The **Toss-up** question is open to anyone and is worth **10** points.

Question 1 in each category is worth **10** points.

Question 2 in each category is worth **20** points.

Question 3 in each category is worth **30** points.

Lightning round questions are worth **40** points each.

Famous firsts

TOSS-UP: Who was the first mutant recruited by Professor X?

1. Who was the first person Rick Jones revealed the Hulk's secret identity to?

2. What was the first *Showcase* feature to get its own title?

3. What was the name of the first story to feature Hawkman?

Since Dr. Fate and Hourman never had their own series, they clearly weren't the first characters featured in ***Showcase*** *to receive their own title. Who was?*

Famous first words

(These are the first words ever spoken by this character.)

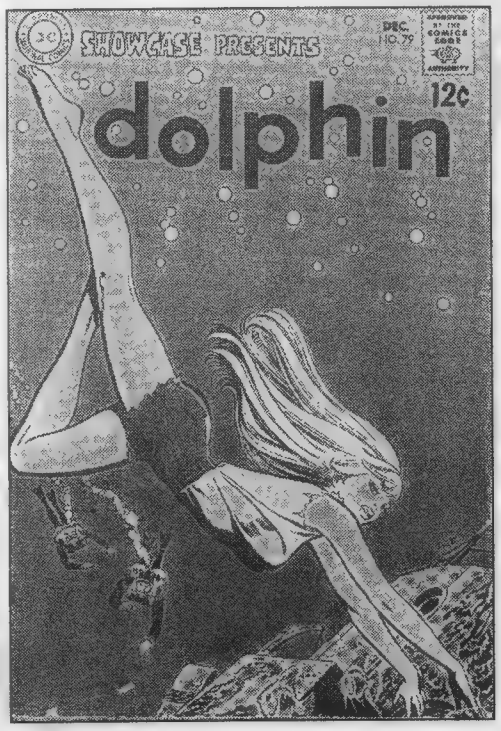
TOSS-UP: "Before I leave for the evening, sir, I thought you might like some freshly brewed coffee."

1. "I could care for him deeply, if only he would show some affection toward me. If even once he would take me in his arms and — and tell me he cares."

2. "But Hank, joining a counter demonstration isn't going to accomplish anything! All you're going to do is make trouble!"

3. "Halt, Krellik! Or we can carve your name on one of those stones with today as the day of death!"

Which of the many, many shy women lusting after heroes entered the Silver Age with the line, "I could care for him deeply, if only he would show some affection toward me!" Here's a big hint: It wasn't Dolphin.



Back-ups

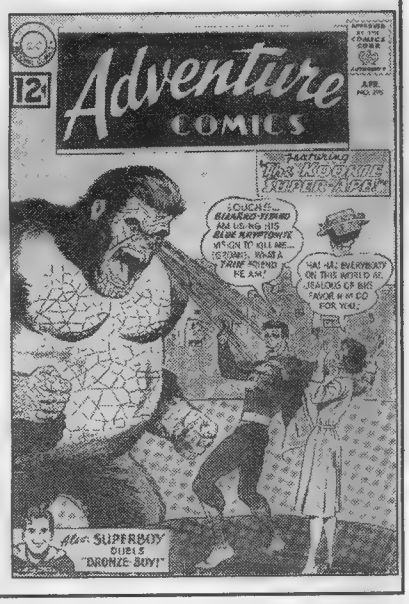
TOSS-UP: What comic book serialized the origin of The Inhumans?

1. What was the name of the reprint series that ran in the back of *World's Finest* in the late 1960s?

2. What was the name of the series of stories in the back of *Tales to Astonish* in which The Wasp told a monster story?

3. What two features did "Tales from the Bizarro World" knock out of *Adventure Comics*?

Much like this trivia contest, Bizarro-Titano's eyes hurt so good. When Bizarro moved into ***Adventure Comics****, what two back-ups had to move out?*



Amazing transformations

TOSS-UP: Who gave Flash the strange feeling he was being turned into a puppet?

1. Who exposed Superman to the red kryptonite that gave him a giant ant's head?

2. What did The Outsider nearly turn Robin into during their battle?

3. What did the unnamed scientist in "This Man, This Monster!" (*FF* #51) use to turn himself into The Thing?

The Thing is a little depressed, but he's not as crabby as he will be after some unnamed scientist turns ***himself*** *into The Thing. What did the guy use?*

Oaths

TOSS-UP: What group that Dr. Strange calls on does he call "Hoary?"

1. What does it say on the side of Thor's hammer?

2. What was the battle cry of the Space Canine Patrol Agents?

3. What's the rest of the Bizarro Code after the first line: "Us Do Opposite of All Earthly Things!"?

If Thor would just stop spinning that darn hammer so fast, maybe you could read what's written on the side of it and pick up a quick 10 points. It'd be worth more if Marvel hadn't used it in ads all summer.

Which came first?

Of these four options, which appeared first in comics?

TOSS-UP: Dr. Alchemy/ Gorilla Grodd/ Pied Piper/ The Turtle

1. The Lizard/ Electro/ The Vulture/ Mysterio

2. Lana Lang meets The Legion/ Superboy meets Mon-El/ Superboy meets Ultra Boy/ Supergirl meets The Legion

3. The Owl/ The Masters of Evil/ The Gray Gargoyle/ Kraven the Hunter

Superboy's thoughts mimic those of the Pros and Fans as they tried to answer this category. Here's a toughie: Did Superboy meet Mon-El before Lana Lang met The Legion?

More famous first words

(These are the first words ever spoken by this character.)

TOSS-UP: "General, you will see my tiny transistors increase the power of this small magnet so tremendously that it will open that locked vault!"

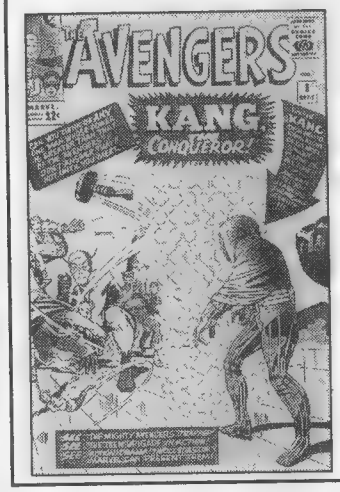
1. "Man, I tell it like it is now! The sound is groovy. It blows my mind."

2. "The legend has come true! By the will of the Gods, I'm alive!"

3. "Look, Lorna, this is no time to talk business. I go on in 15 minutes, and I'm still not made up."

Someone entered the Silver Age with the immortal lines, "Man, I tell it like it is now! The sound is groovy. It blows my mind." Who was it? Here's a hint: It wasn't Black Bolt.

Time travelers



TOSS-UP: The first time they were sent into the past, what was supposed to be retrieved by The Fantastic Four?

1. What was the name of the man who sent Batman into the past?

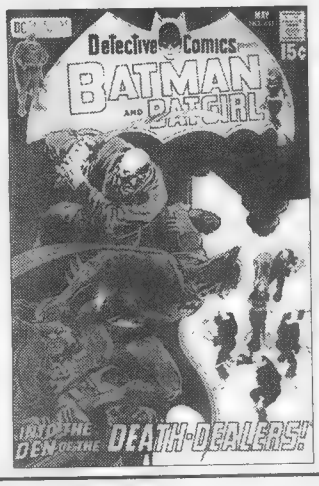
2. In what year did Kang tell the Avengers he was born?

3. What scientist created the Time Pool?

We won't be singing Happy Birthday to Kang for a number of years (and even longer, if that darn Year-2000 deal screws things up). In what year was Kang born?

Lost loves

TOSS-UP: Who was the one big love of Sgt. Fury's life?



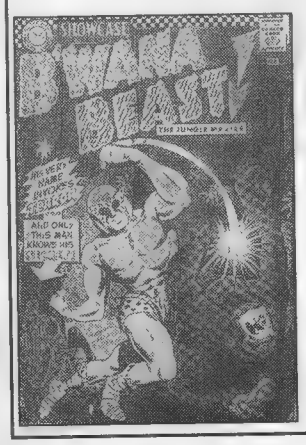
1. After Flash Thompson returned from the war, who was his girlfriend?

2. What name was Superman using when he fell in love with Sally Selwyn?

3. In whose dungeon were they when Batman and Talia first met?

No doubt Bats and Talia have had a chuckle or two about the first time they laid eyes on each other, but it wasn't so funny then. What dastardly villain had captured Talia?

Other names



TOSS-UP: What two things were used to name Mon-El?

1. What is Captain Marvel's secret identity?

2. What is the full name of Nick Fury's friend, Val?

3. What is the real name of B'wana Beast?

Perhaps it's because B'wana Beast's very name invokes terror that neither Pros nor Fans could come up with his real moniker. What is it?

Three IDs

(Under what two identities is this character better known?)

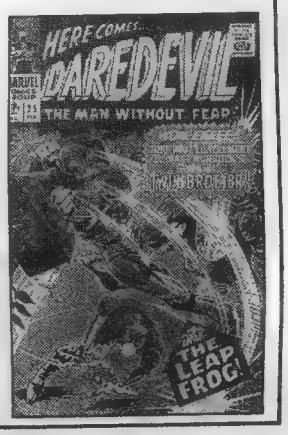
TOSS-UP: Pol Manning

1. Sir Prize

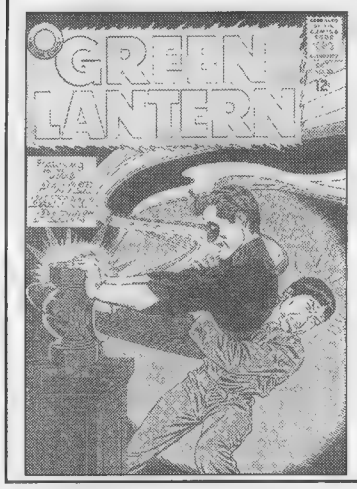
2. The Big Man

3. Dr. Hands

Matt Murdock's twin brother Mike would've enjoyed the Three IDs category.



Assistants



TOSS-UP: What was the name of Carter Hall's museum assistant?

1. Where did Tony Stark meet Happy Hogan?

2. What's the name of Hank Pym's research assistant?

3. What was the name of Ray Palmer's lab assistant?

Assistants often are underpaid and underappreciated, as Thomas Kalmaku can attest. Who were the assistants to Carter Hall, Hank Pym, and Ray Palmer?

Ads

TOSS-UP: Where did Superman entice us to go with free ride tickets?

1. What kind of creature, really, are Sea Monkeys?

2. Who was the artist, besides Norman Rockwell, who was Looking for People Who Like to Draw?

3. What's the name of the company that sold 100 Army Soldiers in their very own footlocker?

Remember those Army men packed in that footlocker? Remember the company that made them? If you do, you can scarf up 30 big points. If you don't, you aren't alone.

More oaths

TOSS-UP: What is the favorite exclamation of Robby Reed?

1. What are the four sentences in the basic Hydra oath?

2. What was the first oath of Green Lantern of Earth-2?

3. What are the two "privileges and gratuities" mentioned on the fancy certificate of membership given to new members of The JLA?

Do you know all four sentences to the Hydra oath? If you do, be careful where you say them. Some people can be cranky about stuff like that.

Letters columns (by request)

TOSS-UP: What was the name of *Hawkman*'s letter column?

1. What was either of the names of the letters column in *Challengers of the Unknown*?

2. What was either name of the letters column in *The Doom Patrol*?

3. What was the name of the letters column in *Captain Action*?

Do you know the name of ***Captain Action****'s letter column? If so, you're doing better than the Fans, and they studied really hard for this category.*

Final lightning round

(Worth 40 points apiece!)

1. By what name do we better know Guy Gilden?

2. What was the profession of Sam Simeon?

3. Who became the fifth member of the Fantastic Four?

4. You have to shake the hand on the statue of what famous person to get into Luthor's Lair?

5. Who rejected the offer from Captain America to join The Avengers in *Avengers* #16?

6. Who is the brother of The Grim Reaper?

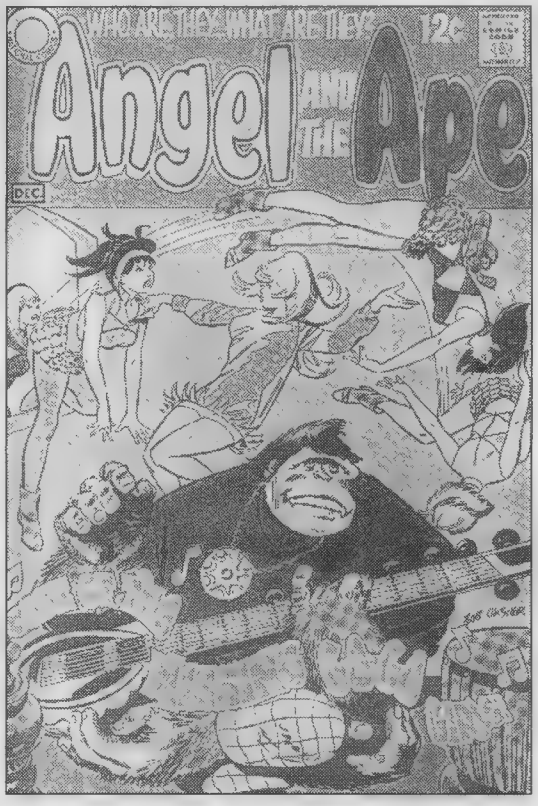
7. Who did Grotesk really kill when we thought he killed Professor X?

8. What was the name of the story in which Reed and Sue got married?

9. Who tried really hard to kill Lightning Lad with a freeze ray?

10. What is the real name of Him?

A word of advice: Don't ask Mark Waid the occupation of Sam Simeon. He'll give you many more details than you really want to know.



All done?
OK, pencils down.
It's time to see how well you did.
The answers are right over here on Page 105.

A perfect score is 1450 points.

If you scored less than 500, don't quit your day job.

If you scored more than 1400, consider getting one.

By Maggie Thompson

• ***Captain America: Sentinel of Liberty Rough Cut*** #1 (Nov 98, Marvel, black and white, $2.99) is plotted by Mark Waid and pencilled by Ron Garney — but the script and ink aren't there, because this is a fascinating view of a comic book in progress. The issue is frozen in time, though slightly out of order; what readers get is what Garney did with Waid's page-by-page plot. Probably in order to help sales (and not confuse potential purchasers even more), the art precedes the plot. (Otherwise, readers would open the issue, find four and a half pages of sideways text, and, conceivably, set it gently back on the shelf.)

What we have is Waid examining an event in Captain America's past, an event following *Captain America* #100. Would-be artists can even play a tryout game with the plot. Given the information Waid gave Garney (for example, "Cap and Agent 13 look at one another with shock. [Now we know who's behind Agent Nine — the RED SKULL. This is his TRADEMARK. If he gains control of the Helicarrier —]"), how would *you* draw the scene? Now look at Garney's work (below) and compare your drawing with his.

• Readers new and old will do themselves a favor by picking up ***Adventure Comics 80-Page Giant*** #1 (Oct 98, DC, $4.95). It's fun, it's self-contained, it's packed with stories which have a beginning, middle, and end, and it features characters with a history in the pages of *Adventure Comics*. Old-timers may grouse at the price. ("When I bought *80-Page Giant* #1, it was only a quarter! This costs *20 times* as much!") Well, yes — but that was also in 1964, when normal comics cost 12¢. Today, normal comics average about $2.50 — so $5 for the 80-pager is right in line.

Paul Kupperberg's editorial places the edition in historical context, providing a quick overview of the 80-pagers and *Adventure Comics* itself. The line-up he chose focuses on *Adventure* features Wonder Woman, Superboy (right), Green Arrow, The Legion of Super-Heroes, Captain Marvel, and Tales of the Bizarro World. And the creators are not necessarily those who are handling some of these storylines in what ongoing titles may contain their adventures.

The stories are, of necessity, almost vignettes — but that's the way comics used to be. Older-timers may recall the fun of *Comic Cavalcade* and *World's Finest* back when those were anthologies — and find that these tales recall the pleasures of such stories. It'd be terrific to find the new 80-pagers getting so much customer support that the era of such anthologies could return, with its discipline of story-telling, the pleasures of variety, and showcase of talent. A look at Howard Keltner's *Golden Age Comic Books Index, 1935-1955* reminds us that the super-hero version of *Cavalcade* ran 29 issues between 1942 and 1948 before it was turned over to humorous features — and *World's Finest* ran 54 issues between 1941 and 1951 in its long format. Wouldn't it be neat if today's market could support such a run of easy-entry storytelling, instead of the one-shot frequency planned for this title?

The entertainment value is strongly reminiscent of those earlier comics: not aimed solely at male readers, not requiring deep knowledge of 30 years of continuity to follow, just good, solid short stories.

ANSWERS

"T" stands for "Toss-up" questions.

Page 102

Famous Firsts

T: Cyclops.
1. Major Glenn Talbot.
2. *Superman's Girlfriend, Lois Lane.*
3. "Creature of a Thousand Shapes!"

Famous First Words

T: Jarvis.
1. Jane Foster.
2. Don Hall (Dove).
3. Captain Action.

Backups

T: *The Mighty Thor.*
1. "Editor's Roundtable."
2. "The (Wonderful) Wasp Tells a Tale!"
3. Aquaman and Congorilla.

Amazing Transformations

T: Abra Kadabra.
1. Superman (*i.e.*, he did it to himself).
2. A coffin.
3. A duplicator machine.

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Oaths

T: The Hosts of Hoggoth.
1. Whosoever holds this hammer, if he be worthy, shall possess the power of ... Thor!
2. Big Dog, Big Dog, Bow, Wow, Wow! We'll Crush Evil, Now, Now, Now!
3. Us Hate Beauty! Us Love Ugliness! Is Big Crime to Make Anything Perfect on Bizarro World!

Which Came First

T: The Turtle.
1. The Vulture.
2. Lana Lang Meets The Legion.
3. Masters of Evil.

More Famous First Words

T: Tony Stark (Iron Man).
1. Brother Power, The Geek.
2. The Mighty Thor.
3. Boston Brand (Deadman).

Time Travelers

T: Blackbeard's treasure (for Doctor Doom).
1. Professor Carter Nichols.
2. 3000 A.D.
3. Alpheus V. Hyatt.

Lost Loves

T: Pamela Hawley.
1. Sha Shan.
2. Jim White.
3. Doctor Darrk's.

Other Names

T: Monday and the El family.
1. Walter Lawson.
2. Contessa Valentina Allegro de Fontaine.
3. Mike Maxwell.

Three IDs

T: Green Lantern & Hal Jordan.
1. Star Boy & Thom Kallor.
2. Frederick Foswell & Patch.
3. Chop-Chop & Liu Huang.

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Assistants

T: Mavis Trent.
1. At a racing or speedway event
2. Bill Foster.
3. Enrichetta Negrini.

Ads

T: Palisades Amusement Park.
1. (Saskatchewan) Brine shrimp.
2. Albert Dorne.
3. Josely Co.

More Oaths

T: Sockamagee!
1. Hail Hydra! Immortal Hydra! We shall never die! Cut off one limb and two more shall take its place!
2. And I shall shed my light over dark evil, for the dark things cannot stand the light ... the light of the Green Lantern!
3. A signal device and a golden key (which provides entry to the Secret Sanctum, library, souvenir room, and probably the rest room, although it's not mentioned).

Letters Columns

T: Hawkman's Roost.
1. Challengers Mail Chute/ Let's Chat With The Challs.
2. Patrol Postscripts/ Paging The Doom Patrol.
3. Action Line.

Lightning Round

1. Gold of the Metal Men.
2. A cartoonist.
3. Crystal.
4. Julius Caesar.
5. Namor the Sub-Mariner.
6. Wonder Man.
7. The Changeling.
8. "Bedlam at the Baxter Building."
9. Zaryan.
10. Adam Warlock.

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The following is a listing of comic shops across the country, arranged by state. Be sure to mention that you saw it in CBG!

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EVENTS (From Page 69)

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Oct 25 NY, Brooklyn. Comic Book, BB Cards, Beanies Babies, Toys & Collectibles Show, Temple Hillel of Flatlands. 2164 Ralph Ave. (at Ave. L), SH: 10am-5pm, T: 50-8', F: $40. for 1, $75. for 2, A: free. Sunrise Prods., Scotty O'Donnell, PO Box 340625 Ryder Stn., Brooklyn, NY 11234. PH: 718-251-2075 or 241-6477.

Oct 31 NY, New York City. Comic Book, Sports Cards & Memorabilia Show, St. Illuminators Cathedral. 221 E. 27th St , btw. 2nd & 83rd Ave., SH: 10am-4pm, T: 25-8', F: $40., A: $1. Edmond Elmokian, 18 Oakland Ave., W. Hempstead, NY 11552. PH: 516-564-9319.

Oct 31-Nov 1 NY, Yonkers. Comic Book & Sports Card Show, Mall at Cross County. 750 Central Ave., SH: 10am-6pm, T: 40-8', F: $125., A: free. Steve Tepper, 57-65 59th St., Maspeth, NY 11378. PH: 718-894-5310 or 516-379-8300.

Nov 1 NY, Massapequa-LI. Wizards Extravaganza Comic Books, Toys & Card Show, Elks Lodge. Veterans Blvd., behind Massapequa Railroad Station, SH: 10am-4pm, T: 60, A: $2. Wizard Collectibles, Valerie Becker, PH: 516-731-2509

Nov 1 NY, Syracuse. Collectorfest, State Fairgrounds. State Fair Blvd., Rt. 690, Exit 7, enter Gate 2, SH: 10am-4pm, T: 150, A: $3., under 10 free. Central NY Promos., Lyn Lake, 35 Hubbard St. Apt. 1, Cortland, NY 13045. PH: 607-753-8580.

Nov 6 NY, Brooklyn. Fri. Nite Comic Book, Sports Card, Non-Sports Card, Toys, Action Figure & Collectibles Show, St. Dominics Church. 20th Ave. & Bayridge Pky. (75 St.), SH: 6pm-10pm, T: 50-9', F: $40. for 1, $75. for 2, A: free. Sunrise Prods., Scotty O'Donnell, PO Box 340625 Ryder Stn., Brooklyn, NY 11234. PH: 718-251-2075 or 241-6477.

Nov 6-8 NY, Niagara Falls. Collector Mania, Convention Ctr. 405 4th St., SH: Fri. 5pm-9pm, Sat. & Sun. 10am-4pm, T: 500-8', F: $125. for 1, $225. for 2, $300. for 3, A: $4. Allan George, 101 Harvest Rd., Fairport, NY 14450. PH: 716-248-2987 or 342-7040.

Nov 7 NY, Sayville-LI. Comic Book, Action Figures & Non-Sports Card Show, Attias Indoor Flea Market. 5750 Sunrise Hwy. & Broadway, SH: 10am-5pm, T: 30, A: free. Paul DeCarlo, PH: 516-289-7398.

NORTH DAKOTA

Oct 31-Nov 1 ND, Fargo. Comic Book, Toys, & Sports Card Show #40, Holiday Inn. 13th Ave. S. & I-29, SH: Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 11am-4:30pm, T: 42, F: $35. for 1, $30. ea. for 2 or more, Kevin Bergson, PH: 701-235-2562 during reg bus. hours.

OHIO

Oct 10-11 OH, Middleburg Hts. Comic Book & Sports Card Show, Tri-City Senior Ctr. 16699 E Bagley Rd., SH: 10am-5pm, T: 55-6', F: $55. for 1, $45. ea. add'l., A: $1.50, 10 & under free. L&K Promotions, Kris Herman, PH: 330-677-9675.

Oct 11 OH, Dayton. Comic Book Show, Holiday Inn. I-75, Exit 44 (near Dayton Mall), SH: 10am-4pm, T: 6', F: $40. for 1, $35. ea. for 2 or more, A: $2., under 12 free. Brian Livingston, 8702 Monsanto Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45231. PH: 513-522-1231.

Oct 18 OH, Canton. Comic Con, Sheraton Inn. I-77 at Exit 109 (Everhard Rd.), SH: 10am-4pm, T: 28-8', F: $50., A: $2., 6 & under free. Jeff Harper, 5220 Loma Linda NE, Canton, OH 44714. PH: 330-499-6056.

Oct 18 OH, Cincinnati. Comic Book Show, Drawbridge Estate. On Buttermilk Pike, I-75, Exit 186, SH: 10am-4pm, T: 6', F: $40. for 1, $35. ea. for 2 or more, A: $2., 12 & under free. Brian Livingston, 8702 Monsanto Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45231. PH: 513-522-1231.

OKLAHOMA

Oct 16-18 OK, Tulsa. Comic Book Show. Adam's Mark Hotel. 100 E. 2nd, SH: Fri. 11am-3pm, Sat. 8am-3pm, Sun. 8am-6pm, T: 105, F: $200., A: $15. Wizard's Asylum Comics & Games, 7165 S. Mingo, Tulsa, OK 74133. PH: 918-250-2077.

PENNSYLVANIA

Oct 9-11 PA, Stroudsburg. Comic Book, Toys & Sport Collectibles Show, Stroud Mall. Rt. 611, T: 6' & 8', F: $80.-$100. Two Brothers Collectibles, PH: 717-603-1208.

Oct 10 PA, Langhorne. Comic Book, Sports Card & Toy Show, Sheraton Bucks County. Oxford Valley Rd., SH: 9am-3pm, T: 60-6', F: $40., A: free. Greg Petrino, 93 Grant Dr., Holland, PA 18966. PH: 215-968-8577 or Eric Poppel, PH: 215-579-0731

Oct 10-11 PA, Allentown. Collectable Super Show, Merchant's Square. S. 12th & Vultee St. (1 mi. off I-78, Exit 18), SH: Sat. 10am-4pm, Sun. 10am-3pm. K&S Promotions, PH: 201-261-8803 or 261-4982.

Oct 11 PA, Harrisburg. Comic Book, Magic & Non-Sports Card Show, Sheraton Hotel. East Park Dr. off Exit 29, I-83, SH: 10am-4pm, T: 30-6', F: $45. for 1st, $30. for 2nd, $25. ea. add'l., A: $1. Comicquest, Tom Jones, 1328 Chestnut St., Emmaus, PA 18049. PH: 610-966-0199.

Oct 18 PA, Philadelphia. Comic-Con, Stadium Holiday Inn. 10th St. & Packer Ave., SH: 10am-4pm, T: 45, F: $60., A: $3. Derek Woywood, 10 Chelsea Cir., Clementon, NJ 08021. PH: 609-782-0817.

Oct 25 PA, State College. Comic Book, Toy & Magic Tournament, Celebration Hall. Off Rt. 26, E. College Ave., SH: 10am-5pm, T: 20-6', F: $65., A: $3. Jodia Promotions, Joseph Figured, RR 2, Box 904, Cogan Station, PA 17728. PH: 717-494-1551.

Oct 25 PA, Reading. Comic Book, Magic & Non-Sports Card Show, Sheraton Berkshire. Rt. 422 at the Paper Mill Rd. Exit, SH: 10am-4pm, T: 30-6', F: $50. for 1st, $30. for 2nd, $25. ea. add'l., A: $1. Comicquest, Tom Jones, 1328 Chestnut St., Emmaus, PA 18049. PH: 610-966-9660 or 966-0199.

Oct 30-Nov 1 PA, Connellsville. Comic Book & Sports Card Show, Laurel Mall. Rt. 119, SH: mall hrs., F: $50. for 1, $80. for 2, $100. for 3. Tony Haley, PH: 724-529-7966.

Nov 1 PA, Pittsburgh. 3 Rivers Comic Con, Holiday Inn-Greentree. 401 Holiday Dr., I-279 to Exit 4 off Mansfield Ave., SH: 10am-4pm, T: 28-8', F: $50., A: $2., 6 & under free. Jeff Harper, 5220 Loma Linda NE, Canton, OH 44714. PH: 330-499-6056

RHODE ISLAND

Oct 18 RI, Pawtucket. Comic Book & Toy Spectacular Show, Comfort Inn. 2 George St., SH: 10am-4pm, F: $50., A: $2. Primate Promos., PH: 978-388-6576.

TENNESSEE

Oct 10 TN, Murfreesboro. Comic Book, Sports Card & Toy Show, Ramada Limited. I-24, Exit 81-B, SH: 8am-4:30pm, T: 45-6', F: $25., A: free. John McGill, 1315 W. Northfield, Murfreesboro, TN 37129. PH: 615-893-1140.

Oct 18 TN, Nashville. Toy & Comic Book Show, Days Inn Airport. 1 Int'l. Plaza Briley Pky., SH: 9am-4pm, T: 50, F: $50., A: $2. Comic City, 4110 Gallatin Rd., Nashville, TN 37216. PH: 615-262-0908.

Nov 7 TN, Chattanooga. Antique & Collectible Toy & Doll Show, Convention Centers, North Hall. SH: 9am-4pm, T: 200, A: $4., $1. ages 6-12. Southeastern Collectible Expo, 1819 Peeler Rd., Vale, NC 28168. PH: 704-276-1670.

TEXAS

Oct 10-11 TX, Houston. Nostalgia Promotions Collectors Show, Holiday Inn. 7787 Katy Fwy., I-10 W. at Silber Rd. Exit, SH: 10am-4pm, T: 50, F: $50. ea per day, A: $3., $1. children 12 & under. Nostalgia Promotions, Andy Mingle, 5300 Desoto #301, Houston, TX 77091. PH: 713-263-8804.

Oct 11 TX, Dallas. Comic Book-N-Toy Mini-Fest, Holiday Inn Select. 11350 LBJ Fwy. at Jupiter Rd., SH: 10am-4pm. PH: 903-675-4670.

Oct 18 TX, El Paso. Comic Book & Toy Show, Quality Inn. I-10 at Geronimo, SH: 9am-5pm, T: 34-8'. Art Wagner, 3814 Mobile Ave., El Paso, TX 79930. PH: 915-564-4757 or 532-2040.

Nov 1 TX, El Paso. Comic Book & Toy Show, Quality Inn. I-10 at Geronimo, SH: 9am-5pm, T: 34-8'. Art Wagner, 3814 Mobile Ave., El Paso, TX 79930. PH: 915-564-4757 or 532-2040.

VIRGINIA

Oct 10-11 VA, Virginia Beach. Antique & Collectible Toy & Doll Show, Pavilion. SH: Sat. 10am-4pm, Sun. 11am-3pm, T: 150, A: $4., $1. ages 6-12. Southeastern Collectible Expo, 1819 Peeler Rd., Vale, NC 28168. PH: 704-276-1670.

Oct 11 VA, Tysons Corner-McLean. Monthly Comic Book, Magic, Toy & Trading Card Show, Tysons Corner Westpark Hotel. 8401 Westpark Dr., take Exit 10 (Rt. 7 W.) off I-495 (Washington, DC area), SH: 10am-4pm, T: 90-6', F: $65. for 1st, $60. for 2nd, $55. ea. add'l., A: $2., under 5 free. Capital Associates, Inc., Jeffrey Rocen, 7952 Arden Ct., Vienna, VA 22027. PH: 703-912-1993.

Oct 31-Nov 1 VA, Virginia Beach. Collectors Mart. Pembroke Mall Intersection of Independence & VA Beach Blvds., SH: Sat. 10am-9pm, Sun. 12:30pm-5:30pm, T: 95-8', F: $120.-$140., A: free. Larry Webster, 4406 Holland Rd., VA Beach, VA 23452. PH: 757-486-0215.

Nov 1 VA, Tysons Corner-McLean. Monthly Comic Book, Magic, Toy & Trading Card Show, Tysons Corner Westpark Hotel. 8401 Westpark Dr., take Exit 10 (Rt. 7 W.) off I-495 (Washington, DC area), SH: 10am-4pm, T: 90-6', F: $65. for 1st, $60. for 2nd, $55. ea. add'l., A: $2., under 5 free. Capital Associates, Inc., Jeffrey Rocen, 7952 Arden Ct., Vienna, VA 22027. PH: 703-912-1993.

WASHINGTON

Oct 10-11 WA, Kirkland. Comic Book, Sports Cards & Coll. Show, Totem Lake Mall. Exit 20B E. off I-405, SH: Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 11am-5pm, T: 60, Twin Oaks Sports Shows, Ron & Barb Oakden, 1242 State Ave. Ste. I-214, Marysville, WA 98270. PH: 360-653-5527.

Oct 10-11 WA, Kennewick. Comic Book, Sports Card & Coll. Show, Columbia Center Mall. 556 Columbia Ctr., SH: Sat. 10am-9pm, Sun. 11am-6pm, T: 40. Twin Oaks Sport Shows, Ron & Barb Oakden, 1242 State Ave. Ste. I-214, Marysville, WA 98270. PH: 360-653-5527.

Oct 17-18 WA, Spokane. Comic Book, Sports Card & Coll. Show, Franklin Park Mall. 5628 N. Division, SH: Sat. 10am-8pm, Sun. 11am-5pm, T: 40. Twin Oaks Sportshows, Ron & Barb Oakden, 1242 State Ave. Ste. I-214, Marysville, WA 98270. PH: 360-653-5527.

Oct 23-25 WA, Federal Way. Comic Book, Sports Card & Coll. Show, SeaTac Mall. Exit 143 off I-5, SH: Fri. & Sat. 10am-9pm Sun. 11am-6pm, T: 65. Twin Oaks Sport Shows, Ron & Barb Oakden, 1242 State Ave. Ste. I-214, Marysville, WA 98270. PH: 360-653-5527.

WISCONSIN

Oct 18 WI, Kenosha. Comic Book, Sports Card, Game & Beanie Baby Show, Best Western Hotel. I-94 & Hwy. 50, SH: 9am-4pm, T: 24-8', F: $22., A: 50¢. Slamdunk Sports Cards, Bill White, PH: 414-843-4147 or 694-8422.

SUPER TRADERS

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*[**Editor's Note:** Items for this feature, which lists appearances in comics stores and lecture halls — **not conventions** — of writers, artists, and editors should be submitted **as far in advance as possible**.*

*We need your information **at least two weeks in advance of the signing** to have a sporting chance of getting it in.*

*The notices must be written — **we cannot take these by telephone** — and kept brief, preferably in the format used here. Send to **Now Appearing**, c/o **Comics Buyer's Guide**, 700 E. State St., Iola, Wis. 54990 or fax it (again c/o **CBG**) to (715) 445-4087.*

***Please note:** This is a free service.]*

October 3

Dan Parent (writer and artist of Archie Comics) at Dewey's Comic City, 19A Waverly Place, Madison, **New Jersey** 07940, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Mark Texeira (artist of *Black Panther*), **Jimmy Palmiotti** (artist of *Daredevil* and *Punisher*), **Joe Jusko** (cover artist of *Punisher*), and **Amanda Conner** (artist of *Vampirella*) at Dreamland Comics, 1455 W. Schaumburg Rd., Schaumburg, **Illinois** 60194, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

October 10

Ron Frenz, Pat Olliffe, and **Tom DeFalco** (creative team of Marvel2 line) at Amazing Fantasy, 582 Torrence Ave., Calumet City, **Illinois**. Call (708) 891-2260 for times.

Ron Frenz, Pat Olliffe, and **Tom DeFalco** (creative team of Marvel2 line) at Amazing Fantasy, 47 E. Lincoln Hwy., Frankfort, **Illinois**. Call (815) 469-5092 for times.

October 11

Ron Frenz, Pat Olliffe, and **Tom DeFalco** (creative team of Marvel2 line) at Amazing Fantasy, 1211 E. 9th St., Lockport, **Illinois**. Call (815) 834-1658 for times.

Ron Frenz, Pat Olliffe, and **Tom DeFalco** (creative team of Marvel2 line) at Amazing Fantasy, 15948 S. Harlem, Tinley Park, **Illinois**. Call (708) 633-0837 for times.

October 15

Brian Pulido, Steven Hughes, Jason Jensen, and several Chaos artists at The Art Institute of Phoenix, 2233 W. Dunlap Ave., Phoenix, **Arizona** 85021. Call (800) 474-2479 for times.

October 16

Sharon Scott, Steve Firchow, and **Mark Prudeaux** (creative team of *More Than Mortal: Sagas*) at Acme Comics & Collectibles, 1788 Hamilton Blvd., Sioux City, **Iowa** from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

October 17

Kevin Smith, Joe Quesada, and **Jimmy Palmiotti** (*Daredevil*); **Christopher Priest** and **Mark Texeira** (*Black Panther*); **Joe Jusko, Christopher Golden**, and **Tom Sniegoski** (*Punisher*); and **Paul Jenkins** and **Jae Lee** (*Inhumans*) at Words & Pictures Museum, 140 Main St., Northampton, **Massachusetts**, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Sharon Scott, Steve Firchow, and **Mark Prudeaux** (creative team of *More Than Mortal: Sagas*) at Acme Comics & Collectibles, 1788 Hamilton Blvd., Sioux City, **Iowa** from noon to 2 p.m.

October 21

Neil Vokes (artist of *Superman 3-D* #1 and *Untold Tales of Spider-Man: Strange Encounter*) at Steve's Comic Relief, 12 Heritage Square, Delran, **New Jersey** from 6 to 8 p.m.

October 24

Neil Vokes (artist of *Superman 3-D* #1 and *Untold Tales of Spider-Man: Strange Encounter*) at Steve's Comic Relief, 165 Mercer Mall, Lawrenceville, **New Jersey** from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Neil Vokes (artist of *Superman 3-D* #1 and *Untold Tales of Spider-Man: Strange Encounter*) at Steve's Comic Relief, 1231 Stella Pkwy., Plaza Rt. 166, Toms River, **New Jersey** from 3 to 5 p.m.

October 28

Neil Vokes (artist of *Superman 3-D* #1 and *Untold Tales of Spider-Man: Strange Encounter*) at Steve's Comic Relief, 4153 Woerner Ave., Levittown, **Pennsylvania** from 6 to 8 p.m.

Tom Grindberg (artist of various Superman titles) at Steve's Comic Relief, 165 Mercer Mall, Lawrenceville, **New Jersey** from 6 to 8 p.m.

October 31

Tom Grindberg (artist of various Superman titles) at Steve's Comic Relief, 1231 Stella Pkwy., Plaza Rt. 166, Toms River, **New Jersey** from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 5 p.m.

November 21

Chris Bachalo (artist of *Uncanny X-Men*) at David's Comic Book Store, 25422 Trabuco, #101, Lake Forest, **California** from noon to 3 p.m.

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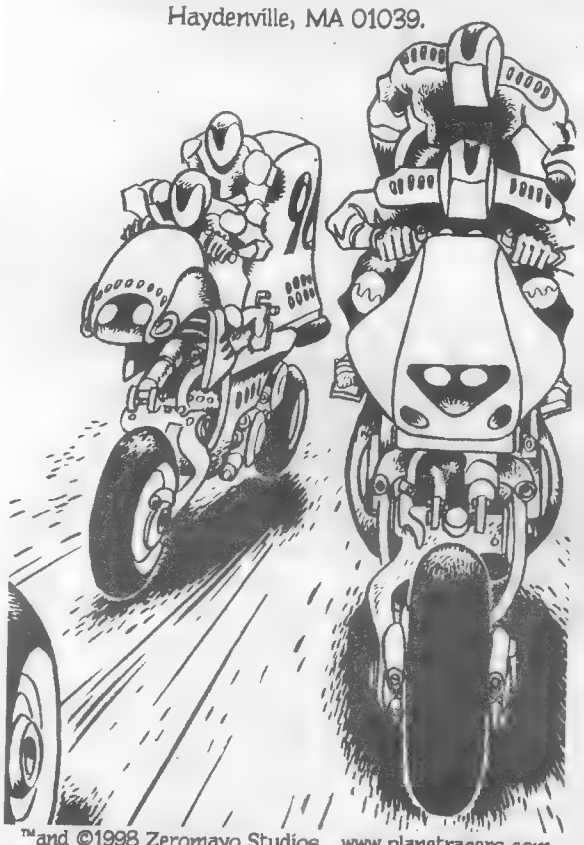

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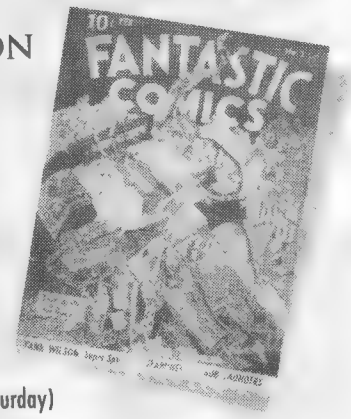

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Children's books by Thornton W. Burgess, with illustrations by HARRISON CADY. (Grosset & Dunlap) Books have no writing or coloring, dust jacket is missing.
MRS. PETER RABBIT (copr., 1919) $15
HAPPY JACK (copr., 1918) $15
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WHITMAN COLORING BOOKS
#1757- FURY. From the popular television show (1957) Pictures by Sparky Moore & Louis Laeis No writing or marking, sm pc mssg BRHC of Pic. b/c and first few pages and last 3 pgs 5 pgs partly colored Large size $12
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SKEEZIX AND UNCLE WALT by Frank King Pictures by the author (Reilly & Lee Co., 1924) VG-FINE cond, some minor damage on spine, no d/j. No writing, coloring, or marking except for nik dedication on front end- page, one page loose. Beautiful full-color plate on front cov $20
PLATINUM-AGE COMICS
Bringing Up Father 3rd Series (Cupples & Leon, 1919). Poor, missing title page, only 44 pages present, many pages colored, pcs mssg from edges of many pgs. As is $12
The Gumps #2 (C & L, 1925) Poor, covers detached, title pg mssg, includes only pages 5-38, 45-48, brittleness around edges, some pgs loose As is, $12
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Film Review 1994 by James Cameron-Wilson & F. Maurice Speed (St Martin's Press, 1st US ed) *Jurassic Park* cover, $19.95 cover price. New $6
The Films of Stephen King by Ann Lloyd (St Martin's Press, 1st US ed, Dec 1994) Incl synopsis, credits, analysis for ea film, many photos all in color (C/P $14.95)New $6
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3/6/27 (no Katz Kids orig. included for this date), 12/25/27 (tear at fold affects 1 panel on 1st page), 4/29/28, 4/21/29, 4/28/29, 5/5/29, 5/19/29. Note: all sections originally folded in the middle.
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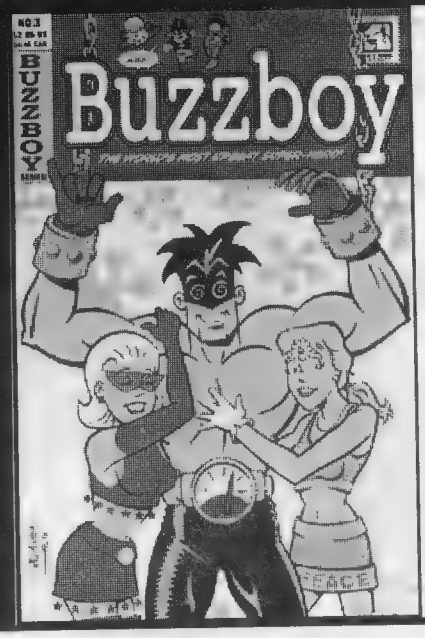

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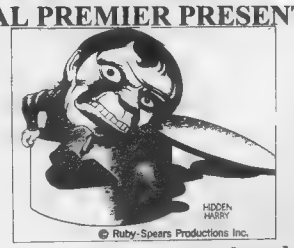

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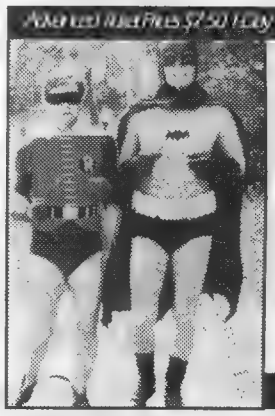

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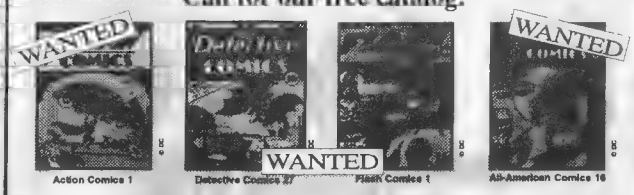

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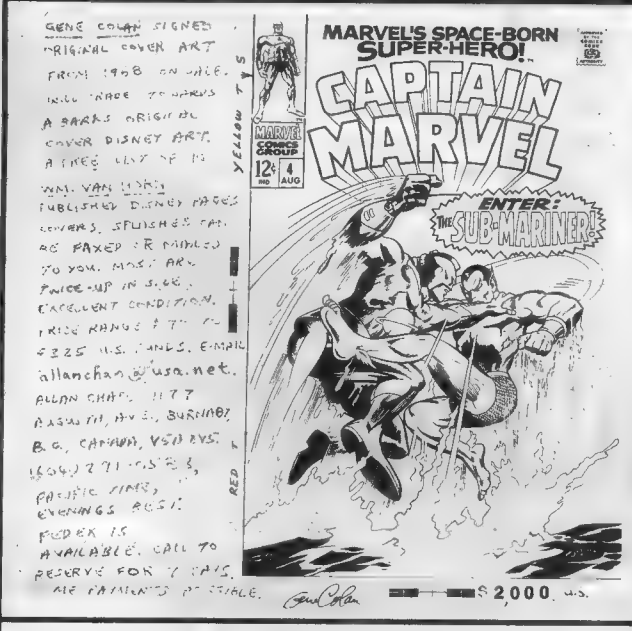

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BATMAN 188 VF+ $18, 188 VF $14, 191, 192, 194, VF, $15 ea. Add $4 postage. Barry Eller, 309 South Rowan Avenue, Spencer, NC 28159.

FLASH 173, 180 (FN) $10 each. 181, 189, 190, 193, 194 (FN) $6 each. GL #24 (VG) $20, #29 (GD+) $13. Many more. Mike 978-937-0990.

BATMAN 115-452, Dark Knight 1-4, Blackhawk 141-273, Black Lightning 1-11, Black Magic 2-9, G-NM. 30-50% off guide. SASE assures reply. Wally, Box 76, Waynesburg, Ohio 44688.

BLACKHAWK MOVIE Script, Xerox copy, 1983, optional by Warner for Spielberg, 140 pages, true to comic, $22.99. Richard Dumont, 750 Whittemore, Middlebury, CT 06762.

TITANS 1980 1-57 Annual 1&2 Solid Mint D.C. presents #26 Titans Previewed Books $140, sell $75 pp: 606-283-2356. Jack Cason, 9 Lakeshore Dr., Florence, KY 41042-9790.

STAR SPANGLED War 138G+ 140VG, 141VG, 142VG, 143F-, 144VG-, 145F-, 146F-, 148VF-, 152VF. All for $60. Steve Spilger, 16830 Barrington Court, Granger, IN 46530.

NEW TEEN Titans Cheap #1 (Nov. 1980) thru #59 plus First Three Annuals, all NM+ $50 postpaid. Bruce Meservey, 21 Clement St., Worcester, MA 01603. 508-756-5559.

DC 100 pagers for sale. Most in VG to NM. Send today for free price list. Colby Black, 524 Palmetto Ave., Frostproof, FL 33843.

WATCHMEN 1-12 NM $50 OBO. Own a piece of comic book history. Hurry, only one set available. Colby Black, 524 Palmetto Ave., Frostproof, FL 33843.

DC COMICS for sale. Most $1 each. Batman, Superman, Hawkworld and Vertigo. Write for list. John French, 5707 Walther Ave., Baltimore, MD 21206.

GREEN LANTERN, 152 to 159, 162 to 164, 176, 210 NM, $1 each, postage $2. Eagle Collectibles, 3338 Appel Rd., Bethel Park, PA 15102. 412-831-3989.

SILVER AGE JLA, B&B, Flash 1 Atom, Hawkman, Blackhawk, Green Lantern, Kamandi, Aquaman, Shazam, some Marvel, all 30-40% below guide. Kurt, 810 Wentworth Ave., Manteca, CA 95336.

DC 100 Page Super Spectacular #4 F/VF $50. (Solid VF with below average pages). Also, Young Love #107, VF/NM $75. Phone or fax: 516-783-6418.

SUPERMAN COLLECTION 1975-1980. Includes most issues from all titles. Very high grade. Sell/ trade. Best offer. Toth, RR 1 Box 5975, Smithfield, ME 04978. 207-362-6449.

HISTORY OF Batman, box scratched, only $80. Also: History of Superman, NM, $100 at FAO's they're $120 each plus tx. Call: Ray Caban, 718-382-5460.

SUPERMAN RARE 1942 Lowther novel with G/VG DJ. Book solid. Shuster color, plates. Great piece $575 or make offer. Steve 301-603-0246.

SUPERBOY: G/VG 16, 20, 22 $45 each, 29 VG $55, 34 VG $45, 44 VG $30. Forest Overman, 5382 N. Highway 13, Brighton, MO 65617.

4130 DC, FOR SALE

50¢: ACTION Comics 583-88, 596, 640, 684-708, 711-716, 728-29, Annuals 5-7, Skin Graft 1-4, MOS 0, 18-39, 46-51, Superman 75-95, Gallery much more! 309-796-0356. keithconant@usa.net

ABSOLUTE VERTIGO #1 VG+/F- $4, Preacher #1 NM $25, #3 NM $20, #5 NM $10, #6 NM $10. Contact: Joe 781-321-1901. xfyles1@aol.com

THE BATMAN Chronicles #4 (1st full Hitman story) NM $10, Demon Annual #2 (1st Hitman) NM $17.50. Joe 781-321-1901. xfyles1@aol.com

ADVENTURE 329 VF/NM only $50. Lots more DC Comics in stock. Send for catalog. Joel Thingvall, 1670 Laurel Ave. #2, St. Paul, MN 55104. thingvall@aol.com

JLA SET 1-23, Ann. 1, Secret Files 1, 2, Midsummer, Paradise Lost, Prometheus, Aztec 1-4, 10 NM $105. John Egan, 355 Gambier, San Francisco, CA 94134. 415-334-5553.

ADVENTURE SET 323, 324, 332, 333, 337, 341, 343, 359, 367, $60. VF- average. John Egan, 355 Gambier St., San Francisco, CA 94134. 415-334-5553.

4131 DC, WANTED

DC SILVER age collections wanted, other publishers as well. All grades. Call Jerry 212-302-8192. Fax 212-302-4775.

PAYING 35 times guide for SuperGear comics, 1976 Superman giveaway 4 pages Superman on front skiing. 410-939-8271.

PREACHER WANTED issues 1 thru 35, as set only. Dave, 123 Clarion Ave., Decatur, GA 30030. dboles@dkmc.org

ALL-STAR SQUADRONS $47, 48, 58, and annual $2. Send asking prices to: MK, PO Box 662, Medway, MA 02053.

BATMAN FAMILY 1, 5, 6-11, 13-16, 18-20, Action 443, Adventure 266-283, 314-326, 334-344 wanted. Good. L. Florio, 157 E. Church St., Bergenfield, NJ 07621. Send list.

4140 DELL/GOLD KEY/WHITMAN FOR SALE

HAIR BEAR Bunch collection! Issues 1-7 all VF+/NM-. All 7 books for $100 including postage. Reserve: Jeff, 74 Berger St., Emmaus, PA 18049. E-mail: stjeffpb@juno.com

RAGGEDY ANN #4 VG $14, Dell March 1966. Send want lists. Ray Olivieri, 33 Highland Ave., West Seneca, NY 14224. 716-675-8469.

1968 THE Beatles Yellow Submarine comic book in VF+ condition with poster (which is hard to find with this book). Steve 305-296-1457.

4141 DELL/GOLD KEY/WHITMAN WANTED

MAVERICK, FC892, FC930, FC945, FC962, FC980, (#7-#19), Have Gun Will Travel, #5, Wild Wild West (GK #1), Colt .45, #5 Zorro! CDF, Box 113, Jonesboro, IL 62952.

TWILIGHT ZONE #1, 3, 15-92, Outer Limits #2, 10-18, Magnus Robot Fighter 30, 37, 42-46, VF or Better. David Rauchwarter, 266 Juniper Ave., Red Wing, MN 55066. 651-388-4100. E-mail: drauchw@pressenter.com

4150 DISNEY, FOR SALE

BIGGEST BIG Mickey Mouse $40 postpaid. 100 assorted comics $20 postpaid in USA. Cinemagic #1 1972 $20. Bob Ranken, 25012 Wiley Cyn. Rd., Newhall, CA 91321.

NM DISNEYS $2 Ducktales #1 to 13, MM #223 to 256, M&D #4 to 22. Free shipping! Dan Lewonczyk, 29 Markwood, Manchester, CT 06040. 860-643-0453.

SOME VERY cool Disney toys and memorabilia for sale. Toys, statues, banks, etc. 50s-70s. Call now! Rey Caban 718-382-5460 for items available.

CARL BARKS Library VIII, 3 Vol. and Slipcase, Mint, First Edition, $150. Fantasia Program Book, 1940 VG Nice Color $65. Richard 413-477-6971.

THE HARDY Boys (First comic book) four color 760, 1956, Good $8 postpaid. 732-269-1025. Joseph Castellano, 26 Anchorage Blvd., Bayville, NJ 08721.

NY SEVEN year old wants to trade Ducks (and Richie Rich). Huge variety. Reading copies. Your list for his. C&J Smith, PO Box 60362, Pasadena, CA 91106.

4160 EC, FOR SALE

MAD 2 VG- $250, 3 Fine $240, 9, 10 Fine $180 each, 16, 17 Fine $120 each, 20, 21 Fine $120 each. Fred 201-864-2252.

JOE ORLANDO original page Weird Science #10 pg.3 top condition, clean, nice space scene, classic Orlando, $250 postpaid. Bob Nastasi, 12 Gillette Ave., Sayville, NY 11782. 516-567-8069.

4161 EC, WANTED

WEIRD SCIENCE 19, Weird Fantasy 7, 9, Weird Science Fantasy Annual 2. Ed Lancaster, 3364 Kathy Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15204.

4161 EC, WANTED

WANT NM: Mad #251, 253, 254, 257, 269, 270, 272, 273, 274, 276, 315. Want VF crakced #8-9, Laugh In #6, 8, 10, 12. Marc 516-829-8376.

4171 FAWCETT, WANTED

CAPT. MARVEL Advs., Capt. Marvel Jr., Gene Autry, Mary Marvel, Wow, Marvel Family, Whiz, Master, Spy Smasher. William Giles, Box 271, Keithville, LA 71047. 318-925-6654.

4181 FOREIGN, WANTED

"ADAMSONS BASTA Under 25 Ar", Swedish anthology of Adamson strips (Silent Sam). Let me know. Thanks. Eric Morey, P.O. Box 322, Woodacre, CA 94973. 415-488-0649.

FRENCH COMICS wanted: Bandes Dessinees, "A Suivre" any comic series in French. Send list: Joel P., 260-C SW 84th Ave., Plantation, FL 33324.

4190 HARVEY, FOR SALE

DICK TRACY: FN #94 through 99. #102 through 106. $13.50. Two $12.75 each. Others. Money orders. Information, write (no calls). Bowden, 1907 Texas, Rantoul, KS 66079-9037.

4204 IMAGE FOR SALE/ WANTED

IMAGE PREMIUM pack! Avengelene Deathmate, Darker Image, Supreme Prophet, Golds and Chromes. Includes 50 different. $50 includes shipping. Comicland, 9582 Hamilton, Huntington Beach, CA 92646. 714-647-7200. pashnutguy@aol.com

MAGE HARDCOVERS Vol. 2, Vol. 3, signed limited slipcases of first series. $75 each, $120 both. Will trade for art/ DC Silver. Zane 773-975-9066. E-mail: zielinskiz@ctt.com

LEAVE IT to Chance, Issues 1-4, $20 ppd. for all. Call James at 609-386-3964 or E-mail at: jminieri@m-s-g.com

CLIFFHANGER COMICS - great selection and competitive prices. Battle Chasers, Danger Girl, Crimson plus other comics in high demand. Visit us online: www.nitrocomics.com 908-464-9787.

WITCHBLADE #7 NM/NM- $7, #8 NM $8, #10 NM $13, #13-#15, #17 NM $3 each. Contact Joe xfyles1@aol.com or 781-321-1901.

DARKMINDS 1 $5, Variant $6.50, A.U. Variant $7, 2 (Regular) $2.75, Variant $3.50, set of both $5.50! Crimson Chromium $40. Shipping/handling $3 4 items. 626-303-1152.

4207 MALIBU FOR SALE/ WANTED

WANTED: MALIBU'S T2 series. All nine issues. Help! Rudy Junior, 72 Horn Lane, Levittown, NY 11756. rudyaub@erols.com

4210 MARVEL/TIMELY, FOR SALE

UNCANNY X-MEN 151 to 161, 163 to 199, 223 to 247 $3 each. Postage $2. Eagle Collectibles, 3338 Appel Road, Bethel Park, PA 15102. 412-831-3989.

SPIDER-MAN RARITIES- Magazine format 1&2 (B&W), t-shirt transfer, Pocket Comics PB (FC), $25 each, all $85 ppd. Cliff Gemmell, POB 740982, Arvada, CO 80006. 303-424-8762 for details.

X-MEN 144-152 $20, 180-192 $20. VF/NM, includes postage. comicsale@aol.com. Rob Reich, 2010 Swan Pointe Ter., DePere, WI 54115.

DD: MAN Without Fear mini series $9 ppd. Glossy pages, embossed covers, all 5 issues! David Toftum, 5601 69th Ave. Apt. 312, Brooklyn Park, MN 55429.

ASTONISHING TALES #1 F/VF $10. Where Creatures roam #1 FN $6. Stocked in depth. P/H $3. Superdreams, 1600 Saratoga Ave. #403-255, San Jose, CA 95129.

THE ONE 1-6 $15; The Eternals 1-19 $85; Nick Fury vs. Shield 1-6 $25; Spyke #1, signed and numbered $25. Mark Klein, 147-09 78th Rd., Flushing, NY 11367.

MARVEL MASTERWORKS Vol. 9, 22, 27, $30 each. Son of Origins, paperback 1st $25. Marvels TPB $15. Fury/ Wolverine Scorpion Connection $10. 502-458-1968.

DESTROYER DUCK 2-7 NM $20 ppd. Eternals 5-18 NM $1 each. Devil Dinosaur 3-8 NM $2 each. Machine Man 2-9 NM $2 each. 2001 1-6, 9, 10 NM $2 ea. 808-487-7659.

DAREDEVIL (1973): 105, 107, 115, 116, 129, 134, 135, 137, 139- All VF. $2 each. $3 P&H. SASE. Allen Schuler, 7506 Appletree way, Louisville, KY 40228./

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 42-100, low to high grades, cheap. Plus hundreds more SA Marvels from personal collection. Michael Ambrose, 2208 Saratoga Dr., Austin, TX 78733.

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #57. Great copy, looks NM, but has crease in center of cover, so F/VF. Only $35. Reserve: Jeff, 744 Berger St., Emmaus, PA 18049. E-mail: stjeffpb@juno.com

SILVER SURFER 82-85, 87-88, 90-96, 99, 102-103, 107-110; Punisher 47-56, 79-84, 89-97, Journal 39-49, 53-60, 64-70, Zone 13-16, 18-22, 24-35, 50¢ each more! 309-796-0356. keithconant@usa.net

4210 MARVEL/TIMELY, FOR SALE

MARVEL SETS Uncanny Tales 1-12 NM $25, Vault Evil 1-23 NM $40, Ghost Rider 1-7 G $12, Namor Submariner 1-11 NM $20. $3 postage. Ernie 603-447-5701.

PLANET APES 1, 2, 3, 5 NM $20, Tales Asgard 1 NM $15, X-Men Special Edition 1 NM $5, 2099 Unlimited 1 NM $3. $3 postage. Ernie 603-447-5701.

HULK NOVEL "What Savage Beast" hc/dj 384 pgs., Peter David. Perez illus. just $9.95 plus $2 P/H. Ron Schwartz, 2031 Paseo Olivos Court, San Jose, CA 95130.

VENOM GOLD ink sketch on Venom Lethal Protector #1 by inker Sam Delarosa, authenticity certificate included $10 postpaid. Anna, 124 Koepke, San Antonio, TX 78214.

BEST OF Marvel Comics Vol. 1 HC $40. Tarzan Vol. 1 HC (NBM) $25. Batman Night Cries HC $20. All for $70. Taylor 252-827-5504.

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #50 FN/VF $123 #69 VF- $14, #77 VF $14, #79 VF $14, #80 VF+ $18, #81 VF/NM $21, #82 VF/NM $21. Jim 408-867-9485.

BLADE #1. San Diego Con Promo, comic. Wesley Snipes photo cover. Super rare, only $5 postpaid. Serge Fidlon, 19221 Sherman Way #21, Reseda, CA 91335.

INCREDIBLE HULK #181 FVF $300, F $225. Send for free catalog. Joel Thingvall, 1670 Laurel #2, St. Paul, MN 55104. thingvall@aol.com

X-MEN 25 Mint special while they last $10. X-Men 27 Mint $2. Mark Graff, 1863 North Miller St., Santa Maria, CA 93454. 805-925-7193.

NIGHT NURSE #4 VG $10 postpaid. Mark 254-772-4571.

WOLVERINE MINI-SERIES set #1-4 $68, Star Wars Annual #1 $13, #3 $12. 407-240-8177. John Levanduski, 648 Wechsler Circle, Orlando, FL 32824.

AVENGERS #1 Volume 1, $1,100 OBO. No trades. Jeff, 9750 SW Morrison Street, Portland, OR 97225. E-mail: thecavalier@juno.com

CONAN #13 VFN (Ink'd) $7. Please add $1.50 for postage. Write for my free selling list. Joseph Pormigiano, 74-56 260th Street, Glen Oaks, NY 11004-1123.

ADV. INTO Terror 29 G $15, 25 (C) $5, Adv. Into Mystery 3 FG $9, 4 G CL $12. More. Ray Storch 510-658-3403 before 6pm PT weekdays.

AMAZING ADULT Fantasy 7 FR $30. 8 FR $30, 9 VG $75, 12 VG $75, 13 G- $35, 14 FG $35. Ray Storch 510-658-3403 weekdays.

ASTONISHING 19 (C) $7, 51 GVG $15, 55 FR $10, 55 VG $20, 57 VG $25. Men's Adv. 22 NFC $5. More. Ray Storch 510-658-3403 weekdays.

WOLVERINE (MINI) NM #1 $34, 2 $20, Silver Surfer (old) NM #1 $390, 4 $330, Star Wars NM #1 $60. #2 $25. 540-667-3819.

X-MEN BLOWOUT tons for sale. Good prices. Good variety. Marvels, DC's and many others. SASE to: Linda Mar, 11015 Freer Street, Temple City, CA 91780.

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4211 MARVEL/TIMELY, WANTED

G.I. JOE comics wanted. #1 $3, #2 $5, #3-#10 $1 ea. #11-#26 50¢ ea. #27 up 25¢ ea. First prints. NM only. Tom Kalb 602-962-5751 Mon.-Sat. 11-7.

BUYING MARVEL Masterworks. #7, #13, #17, #20, #21, #25. Also some for trade. John 608-278-7521. jesnyder@netscape.net

PAYING 50% of Guide for Fine or better Amazing Spider-Man #1-9, 12-15, #17, $50. Call after 7pm, 630-406-8236, George.

BUYING MARVEL Masterworks: #13, #16, #17, #18 $50; #6, #21 $40; also buying all others! Atlas, POB 25095, Overland Park, KS 66225. 913-345-1069. chris@atlascomics.com.

WANTED: AMAZING Spider-Man #1-134, 230 and 231. Please send condition and asking price to: Scott Talmadge, 304 Major Ave., Staten Island, NY 10304. E-mail: charlyhoho@aol.com The cheaper the better.

WANTED: MARVEL Masterworks hardcovers #16, Spider-Man #20, Iron Man #22, Spider-Man NM/M can be opened. Michael Wilczek, 33 Arlingtgon Ave., Auburn, NY 13021. 315-253-2054.

WANTED! MARVEL Comic on the life of Mother Theresa. Please help me find one. Bill Cain, 206B E. Losey, Scott AFB, IL 62225. 618-744-1543. asgard41@aol.com

MARVEL MONSTER reprints wanted for 7-year-old boy's Christmas present. How many will $20 buy? Dave Hockman, 605 22nd St. SE, Auburn, WA. 98002.

MOONSHADOW BOOK trade paperback from Marvel. Will trade or pay cash. Signed book would be great! Dan Cherney, 2525 Vermilion Road, Vermilion, OH 44089.

4211 MARVEL/TIMELY, WANTED

TRADING A.S.M. Have mostly over #250 and other misc. comics. Need under #200. Giving 20% more in trade. Kevin Sandmeyer, 1519 W. Philadelphia St., York, PA 17404.

THOR 350, 351, 352, 353, 354 & 355 NM/M. Brian Schell, 25 Sagewood Circ., Conway, AR 72032. bschel@acxiom.com

COLLECTOR PAYING 50% of overstreet for early 60's Key Marvel and D.C. in solid Fine condition. No restoration. B&B, #28 ect. Call 423-357-3197.

4215 PLATINUM AGE FOR SALE

TWO COPIES Little Orphan Annie #1. First copy is VFN+ with DJ. Second copy is VG $250 for pair. Carl 208-523-1278.

MILT GROSS "Hearts Of Gold" 1983 Abbeville reprint of 1930 classic silent novel, tpb, $6.50. Ron Schwartz, 2031 Paseo Olivos Ct., San Jose, CA 95130.

EVA, PORA and Ted 1931, $25. Yellow Kid sheet music, $40. Yellow Kid Cap bomb $170. Monumental Collectibles, PO Box 388, Manchester, MD 21102. 410-848-0275.

4220 SCIENCE FICTION/HORROR FOR SALE

50 PAGES of Dracula II, The Big Top, Jones Index, Scan, Trauma, more. $3 illustrated catalog fanzine. Biff Smith, 1344 West Flower, Phoenix, AZ 85013.

WEB OF Evil #12 VG $30, Strange Fantasy #14 VG $35, Suspense #6 VG $45, Baffling #16 VG $33. Scott 214-328-5832.

ADV. INTO The Unknown #5 FR/G $20, Forbidden Worlds #5 VG $70, Web of Evil #12 VG+/F $38, Eerie #4 VG/F $100. Scott 214-328-5832.

CHAMBER OF Chills: #17 F $50, #18 $50, #21 F/VF $70, Strange Worlds #4 (Avon) VG+ $130, Marvel Tales #102 G $90. Scott 214-328-5832.

MONSTER TIMES 1972 NO.2 Star Trek issue! (VG) $25, No.43 (1975) Demon issue! (VG) $15. Both 32 pgs. Geoffrey Mahfuz, 30 Phebe Ave., Lowell, MA 01854.

WITCHES TALES #12 G $15, #15 VG+ $28, #26 VF $50, #27 VF $50 Marvel Tales #102 G $100, unseen #7 VG $40. Scott 214-328-5832.

WEB OF Evil #3 VF+ $160, #17 VG $30, #12 VG $30, Tales to Astonish #2 VG $95. Beware #6 VG $90. Scott 214-328-5832.

HIGH GRADE complete runs of all Marvel Horror reprint books. Also Marvel magazines and about 10-15 early Marvel Horror books. Steve 305-296-1457.

4221 SCIENCE FICTION/HORROR WANTED

DYNAMIC #8, Mister Mystery #18, Startling Terror Tales #11, Weird Tales of the Future #8, Ghost #6. 900 Henderson Avenue #2408, Houston, TX 77058. 281-335-7355.

4240 UNDERGROUND, FOR SALE

LARGEST SELECTION of undergrounds. More than 1,200 items, rare, out of print, current. For list, send $1 to: Don Donahue, Apex Novelties, PO Box 3199, Berkeley, CA 94703.

DEMI COMICS, 1-4, Crossovers- Tracey Adams, Shaundra, Cassiopeia, & Captain Fortune- signed, $4.50 each. Free newsletter. Adults only. Opus Graphics, PO Box 2068, Scottsdale, AZ 85252.

4241 UNDERGROUND, WANTED

ZAP COMIX original art wanted. I pay the most for desirable pieces. Eric Sack, 201 Old York Rd., Jenkintown, PA 19046.

4250 INDEPENDENTS, FOR SALE

WILD PERSON in the Woods features mystery, danger and jungle action with orangutans. Order from October's Previews under "G.T. Labs". E-mail: g.t.labs@umich.edu for more information.

1980S, '90S Independents, DCs, Marvels for sale below Overstreet. List: SASE to G.E. Guay, PO Box 142, Quincy, MA 02171-2016 or e-mail: gguay@gis.net Thanks.

X-FILES 0-35 $170 for set. Derek Mirabal, Cond Plaza Real Caparra. 187 Carr 2. Apt 509, Guaynabo PR 00966. derek@coqui.net

JONNY QUEST #1 $6, #2 $4, #3-5 $3 each. $3 postage. SASE for full list. Tom Hegeman, 35 Church, Oneonta, NY 13820.

FAUST SET #1-#11 (#11 is signed by Vigil) for only $35 ppd. Sold as set only. E-mail me at: dpedicini@earthlink.com

RARE MCFARLANE Art Coyote #11-14, his first work! Impossible to find, only $20 ppd. Michael Todasco, 117 Founders Pointe South, Bloomingdale, IL 60108. 630-205-2357.

4251 INDEPENDENTS, WANTED

I WANT to thank the people who responded to my cry of help. Miracleman collection is almost complete! Still need #23-up. hclark01@hercules.baker.edu

THE PROFESSIONAL (Golgo 13) #1-3 wanted. Viz Comics, I think. Sam Roberts, 2810 E. Yesler Way, (Apt. 3), Seattle, WA 98122.

4260 WESTERNS, FOR SALE

LARGE LIST of Western comics for sale. Send 64¢ postage to: Ed Spiegel, 335 Farrington Blvd., North Brunswick, NJ 08902. 732-821-7471.

CLASSIC WESTERN videos: Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, Lone Ranger, William Boyd, Randolph Scott, John Wayne. For list: Ron Kamrowski, 20 Winding Hills Rd., Florida, NY 10921. nutcom@worwick.net

REX ALLEN 3 F $21, 4 VF $45, 10 VF $45, Rod Cameron 4 F+ $65, 19 F+ $52. Phoenix Enterprises, 223 Fairview, Erin, NY 14838.

MASKED RAIDER #1 (1955), Cheyenne Kid #18 (1959) and Cowboy Western #54 (1955). Condition averages VG, all for $40. Reserve: Jeff, 744 Berger St., Emmaus, PA 18049. E-mail: stjeffpb@juno.com

4261 WESTERNS, WANTED

GENE AUTRY, Roy Rogers, John Wayne, other Westerns G-to NM condition. Paying up to 50% Overstreet guide. 28th Edition. Silvestri, 17170 Melon Ave., Fontana, CA 92336.

REAL WESTERN Hero #75, 77, 83, 85, Hoppy #4, Lone Ranger #37 and Patches #8, #11. Paying guide. Steve Treiber, 1675 West 9th St., Brooklyn, NY 11223. 718-266-2004.

LONE RANGER #142; Tonto #1, #10; Range Rider #1; Dale Evans #1; Lawman #1; Trigger #8; Rex Allen #1; other Westerns. Peter Bendza, Box 467, Thorsby, AB Canada.

4300 GOLDEN AGE, FOR SALE

SHADOW COMICS Vol. 7, No. 7, October 1947; Vol. 7, No. 8, November 1947. Mint, $600 each. James Maxwell, Box 367, Lampeter, PA 17537. 717-464-5572, 717-464-5573.

FREE CATALOG 90+ pages: Horror, Disney, Movie, Western, Esoteric, Sci-Fi. Send 4 32¢ stamps, $2 credit on first order: NACCA, 16 Split Rock Rd., Pittsford, NY 14534.

25% OFF Current guide. E-mail for list. fwh@3rddoor.com

SUPER COMCIS #8 Fine Dec. 1938 $150 postpaid. Paul Hudson, 18 Alfresco Drive, Ballwin, MO 63021. 314-391-8916.

FRANK BUCK 70 G $25, Wambi 8 G $10, Dream of Jeannie 1 G $12, Josie 1 VG $15, Henry Aldrich 1 G+ $6. $3 postage. Ernie 603-447-5701.

NORTHWEST MOUNTIES 4 G $25, Judo Joe 1 G $12, 3 G $10, Judy Canova 24 G $15, Spectacular Feature 11 G $20. $3 postage. Ernie 603-447-5701.

EXCITING 46 G $40, Terrific 16 G $12, Feature 38 G $30, Champ 13 G $35, Hit 44 G $12, Planet 46 $35. $3 postage. Ernie 603-447-5701.

SPARKY WATTS 4 G $12, Robin Hood Tales 2-4 G $15 each, Saint Avon 11 G $10, Star Spangled 65 NC $30. $3 postage. Ernie 603-447-5701.

GOLDEN AGE #1 issues Northwest Mounties (Lubbers cover, Baker art), Roy Rogers (pedigree), Firehair (NM-), Bullseye (Simon and Kirby). 540-789-7056.

BEN CASY Film story 1 VF $30, Bill Boyd 3 VF $60, Blackhawk 18 VG/F, 25 F $85 each. Donald Puff, 500 Walton Dr., Cheektowaga, NY 14225. 716-834-0996.

ROMANCE GEMS: Rom. Adv. 25 VG $28; Girl's Romances 2 (G/VG) $52; Golden West Love 3, VG+ $48; Love Romances 9 VG $19.50; True Life Secrets 20 VG+ $15. 413-549-0852, P&H $3, Jack.

SENSATION COMICS 17 Poor $17. Mark Drummond, 1302 N. 49th St., Apt. 10, Omaha, NE 68132. 402-553-5804 after 7pm.

PLASTIC MAN #50 VG+ $45, Tomahawk #5 G+ $35, Adventure #195 G+ $30, #215 VG- $35, Superboy #10 G $50, Superman #74 G $50 Shags 253-862-5055.

#1 COMIC The "Scarlet Pimpernell" 1940s comic book, very good condition, $100. Steve Berdy, 159 W. Sherman Ave., Newark, NY 14513. 315-331-6618.

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PEREZ/BYRNE COVERS wanted: Avengers, F.F., 2-in-1, team-up, CAP, Iron Man, X-Men, JLA, Titans, (and any "oddball" titles 1975-1987). Call me first!! Jonathan 516-864-2281.

HORROR COVERS, stories, splashes from 1950-1955. I will pay cash or trade GA. K.B., 48 Dimas Court, Harrington Park, NJ 07640. 201-750-1164.

COVERS WANTED: Captain America #202, 216, 248, Thor 262, Tomb/Dracula #62, 64, What if #17, Defenders #44, 74, Marvel team-up #86. Jonathan 516-864-2281.

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CARL BARKS: Original Carl Barks artwork wanted. Info to: Andrew Leong, 401 Broadway, Suite 1800, New York, NY 10013. Tel.: 212-343-1881, Fax: 212-343-2882.

RON GARNEY, Captain American artwork wanted. Cover preferred. Send list to: RAT, 1200 Woodruff Road C-18, Greenville, SC 29607.

BIGGEST DICK Tracy collector in the world giving best deals. Buying and trading. Matt Masterson, 31 Maplewood, Malden, MA 02148. 781-322-2605.

IRON MAN 152 Splash pages wanted. Romita Jr. Layton art. Cash or trade. Call Michael, 773-237-9505.

ART ADAMS Longshot #6 pages wanted. Also, will consider other Adams pieces. Ironman #215, #216 covers wanted!! Ask for list of "sale" items. 415-624-0426.

PAYING HIGH above market for complete Romita Sr. Spiderman book. Also paying high for individual Romita Sr. pages. Contact: Glen Brunswick, 310-399-7476.

WATCHMAN, MIRACLE Man art wanted for private collection. Real live cash paid. Contact Jim, 425-882-8080 ext. 17041, E-mail: jimbat@earthlink.net

CRANDALL HOP Frog Art; Winslade Wonder Woman Art; Dan Barry Men's Adventure Comix Art. Send list to: Greg Wilson, 139 Park Ave., Madisonville, KY 42431.

MIRACLE MAN Artwork by John Totleben also need Doctor Strange Artwork by Michael Golden and Paul Smith. Call Mike Sweet 702-645-0662.

COVERS WANTED: Godzilla #3, All-Star #64, Marvel Premiere #45-47, (old) Teen Titans #50-53, Action #474-484, Weird Wonder Tales #18. Jonathan 516-864-2281.

COVERS WANTED: Iron Man #108-127, Hulk #207, Human Fly #10, Micronauts #1-11, Marvel 2-in-1, #16, 36-63, Star Wars #2-22. Jonathan 516-864-2281.

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COVERS WANTED: D.C. Presents #12-14, Flash #243, 268, Shazam #34 (1977), Super Team family #8, New Gods #12-19, Firestorm #2, 3. Jonathan 516-864-2281.

BYRNE, LEE, Adams X-Men wanted. Ross Marvels, Perez Titans. Will pay top dollar for F.F. covers #249, 259, Action #584, Superman #8. Eric 718-855-5258. Darkman237@aol.com

RICH BUCKLER: 1970s DC covers: JLA, Kamandi, Freedom Fighters, Secret Society Super Villians, New Gods, Superteam Family, DC Superstars, Superman, Action, Titans, others. Jonathan 516-864-2281.

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FOSTER TARZAN 8-17-33 wanted. Also want Raymond Jungle Jim 1936-39 Toppers. David Winiewicz, PO Box 89, Amherst, NY 14226. Phone 716-836-9554.

LOOKING FOR Orion (New Gods) art especially covers and splashes. Any artist or from any title. Send xeroes and price to: A. Cacioppo, 11 Montana St., Hicksville, NY 11801.

RUSSELL PATTERSON art wanted. Mamie Sundays or single illustrations. Stuart NG, 5900 West 76th Street, LA, CA 90045. 310-645-4648. stuartng@juno.com

COLLECTOR BUYING original art, covers and splash pages pre-1980. Absolutely no one will pay more! Call Stephen 800-229-6387.

WARREN ART wanted! Ortiz, Mas, Galvez, Abellan, Salvador, Adkins, Barr, Garzon, Alcazar, Garcia, Nebot, Mastroserio, Roussos, Fernandez, Jones. Karlen, 5130 Blanchard, Dallas, TX 75227. 214-388-1317.

WANTED AVENGERS covers #130, 141, 160-201. (Perez, Byrne, Cockrum) No one will pay more for these covers than I will!!! Cash/trade. Jonathan 516-864-2281.

4410 BIG LITTLE BOOKS, FOR SALE

LARGE LIST, most titles, lots of high grade copies. Want lists welcome. List $1. Ken Mitchell, 710 Conacher Drive, Willowdale, Ontario Canada M2M 3N6.

4411 BIG LITTLE BOOKS, WANTED

$5 EACH for BLBs in complete, reading condition, all titles 1930s, 1940s. Also want comic strip related premiums. James Doyiakos, 2221 W. Lawrence, Chicago, IL 60625.

4420 BOOKS-GENERAL, FOR SALE

HULK NOVEL: "What Savage Beast" HC, DJ, 384 pgs. Peter David. Perez illos. just $9.95 plus $2 P/H. Ron Schwartz, 2031 Peseo Olivos Court, San Jose, CA 95130.

SALE! COCHRAN Boxed volumes Weird Fantasy first mint $75, Weird Fantasy first mitn $75. Both plus postage. Manny Sternschein, 711 Shore Rd., Long Beach, NY 11561. 516-432-3442.

DANTE GABRIEL Rosetti HC w/slipcase, 1989, only $35. (Cover $65). Dinotopia and World Beneath by Gurney, each NM w/signed bookplate, $25 both ($60 originally). 508-995-6968.

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NINE (9) Fairy Tale books Samuel Lowe, 1940? VG. Paul Hudson, #18 Alfresco Drive, Ballwin, MO 63021. 314-391-8916.

BRIDGE BOOKS Auction and Contract. SASE for lists and prices from 1908 to present. John Leonard, 1626 Shubel Ave., Lansing, MI 48910.

ALL IN Color For Dime (1970), Comic Book Book (1973) by Thompson/ Lupoff, both jackets, $85 postpaid. Gordon Sclar, 5010 Lakeview Drive, Fayetteville, NY 13066.

SANDMAN MYSTERY Theatre: "The Tarantula" tpb, Wagner and Davis, 112 pg., orig. $14.95, now $8.95 plus $2 P/H. Ron Schwartz, 2031 Paseo Olivos Ct., San Jose, CA 95130.

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KALUTA- THE Shadow in Hitler's Astrologer- Marvel Graphic Novel 1988, First Edition Hardcover, VF $14 postpaid. Mike Robertson, PO Box 372, Maple Valley, WA 98038.

HARLAN ELLISON Spider KISS Hardback 1991 Trade Edition, $20. Call Mitch 281-444-6293.

THE SHADOW and the Golden Master by Gibson. HC with DJ. Excellent, $25 postpaid. Craig Delich, 2940 North 71st, Kansas City, KS 66109.

CAPT. BILLY'S Whiz Bang 1920s, 1930s magazines digest size, VG cond., 10 different for $80. Alfred Farrugio, 21 W. Lyons St., Melville, NY 11747.

WALT KELLY'S "Ten Ever-Lovin' Blue-eyed Years with Pogo" hard cover, first edition (1959), $12.50 plus postage. Craig 651-698-8981.

BOOKS ON Illustration and Comic Art. Descriptive 664 item catalog available for five 32¢ stamps. Stuart Ng, 5900 West 76th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90045. 310-645-4648.

CHEAP! GRAPHIC albums: Disney, Euro, vintage strips, Marvel, DC, more. All below cover price! (Also magazines: Marvel, Warren, Indies, Warrior, UK, magazines, more.) Send for list(s). Jim Green, 8231 DeLongpre #8, LA, CA 90046.

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NEAL ADAMS - Treasury 2. 1979. 52pp. VF-NM. $30 postpaid. Will trade for other Adams fanzines. Stuart Ng, 5900 West 76th Street, LA, CA 90045. 310-645-4648.

MOTHER GOOSE Pop-up, 1933, Blue Ribbon Books, 3 of the 4 pop-ups, complete o/w poor, $45 ppd. Terry 215-627-7258.

DOC SAVAGE Golden Press hardcovers: Man of Bronze, Death in Silver, Quest of Qui $18 each. David Humphrey, 50 Dusty Lane, Leicester, NC 28748. 828-683-5646.

VF/NM FIRESIDES: Silver Surfer, Hulk Superhero Women, Dr. Strange, FF, Amazing Spider-Man, Spidey Super Stories @ $50; Strength Fitness, Marvel Mazes, Fun Book @ $35. Gabe 760-325-5977.

BARKS. MARVEL hardcovers: Uncle Scrooge in color (Gladstone '87) $45, Barks Library (Another Rainbow). V: Uncle Scrooge, VI: Donald Duck family (shrink wrapped), $85 each; Marvel Masterworks (shrink wrapped). 9-11, 16, 21/ $35, 18/ $75 each. Jim 323-654-7975.

4421 BOOKS-GENERAL, WANTED

WANTED: DAVE Dawson books by R.S. Bowen. Need Guadalcanal, Casablanca, Truk in good shape, dust jackets unnecessary. Steve Kane, Box 86, New Braintree, MA 01531.

READER'S DIGEST Best Loved Books for Young Readers #3. Paying $10 each (not $5) plus shipping. Rodney Schroeter, Box 37766, Milwaukee, WI 53237-0766. sreels@execpc.com

WANTED: MARVEL'S hardcover "Superhero Women" from 1977. Any reasonable price paid. Contact: Ken 303-745-4059. kenottjr@aol.com

BOOGUMS PRESS: The Man from U.N.C.L.E. "The Wolves and the Lambs Affair" by J. Hunter Holly. Bill Finocchiaro, 611 Kimball Ave., Fulton, NY 13069. 315-593-3454.

WANTED: ANY condition: Robert Kennedy Books by Plimpton, Van Danhevval, Etc. (Also Int'l. Memorial Book Anthology). Steven Sawolkin, 228-G Freedom Dr., Belleville, IL 62226.

SPIDEY SUPER Stories hardcover (1977); Krazy and Ignatz hardcover Volume 2; Fine Art of Disney's Donald Duck hardcover signed by Banks. Ivan 415-387-2272.

THE SHUDDER Pulps by Jones. Both hard and soft cover VF plus only. Write: Mike Kutz, 2031 West Old Shakopee Road #28, Bloomington, MN 55431.

UFO MATERIALS wanted! Buying books, mags. devoted to UFOs/ related phenomena. Lists to: Orion Marketing, 1807 Cold Springs Road, Liverpool, NY 13090. Robertc130@aol.com

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4181 Foreign, Wanted
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4191 Harvey, Wanted
4200 Humor/Funny Animals, For Sale
4201 Humor/Funny Animals, Wanted
4204 Image, Wanted/For Sale
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4211 Marvel/Timely, Wanted
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4221 Science Fiction/Horror Wanted
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4300 Golden Age
4301 Golden Age, Wanted
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4453 Science Fiction, Wanted
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4605 Phone Cards, For Sale
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"ADAMSON" (SILENT Sam) strip anthologies. Foreign language or English. If you have any spare copies contact: Eric Morey, P.O. Box 322, Woodacre, CA 94973. 415-488-0649.

BOOK DEALERS and collectors- I need help with this: "Space Marine" novel (Watson), "Deathwing" Anthology, any edition- especially Boxtree hardcovers. knightcea@aol.com

LEBBEUS WOODS. New City or Terra Nova. Will buy/trade. Stuart NG, 5900 West 76th Street, LA, CA 90045. 310-645-4648. stuartng@juno.com

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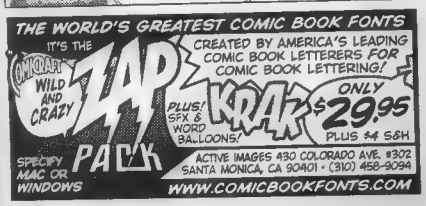

4430 PAPERBACKS, FOR SALE

THE AVENGER #1 thru #36 complete, fine or better, $125 postpaid. Phil Nelson, 221 Scioto Avenue, Chillicothe, OH 45601. Phone 740-773-2256.,

DELL MAPBACKS: 5 diff. $16 ppd.; 10 diff. $30 ppd. All complete, different genres, VG/Better cond. Nice covers, 1940s-1950s. Paperman, 94 Berkeley Place, Bridgeport, CT 06610.

HIGH GRADE heroes (Doc Savage, Avengers), Dark Shadows, Uncle, Star Trek, Comic Book, Comedy, etc. List $1. Ken Mitchell, 710 Conacher Dr., Willowdale, Ontario Canada M2M 3N6.

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WESTERN PULPS for sale. Exciting Western G $300, Rio Kid Western VG $5. P&H $1 each. Danny Espy, 8167 Halifax Way, Charleston, SC 29420.

CARTOONS MAGAZINE Jan. 1916 drawing by Nelson Harding in Brooklyn Eagle, stamped sample copy, G, $120. Live Stories Sept. 1917 G $20. Robert 870-425-0829.

SHADOW JULY 1945 TS FN/VF, Dec. 1946, BC tape, Fine+, Doc Savage 1944, July. Chip VG/FN. 416-222-5808. Offers. Ken Mitchell, 710 Conacher Dr., Willowdale, Ontario Canada M2M 3N6.

4441 PULPS, WANTED

BUYING PULP Magazines- all types and titles, wanted. Will travel for large accumulations. Send list fo my offer. Ray Bowman, Box 167, Carmel, IN 46082.

LONE RANGER Pulps wanted in VG-F condition. Dave Brauhn, 416 Waterbury Lane, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402 or 319-848-5231 or 319-377-3524.

PAYING $10 each for Northwest Romances and Northwest Stories pulps in VG condition. Phil Nelson, 221 Scioto Avenue, Chillicothe, OH 45601. 740-773-2256.

4450 MAGAZINES, FOR SALE

DESTINY, VAMPIRE Mermaid, Comics, photos, Scream Queen Debbie D, Hot and Cool, FOurth Year, Quarterly plus Annual. Scare Monsters, 348 Jocelin Pl., Highwood, IL 60040.

185 PLAYBOYS from 1966-1996 for $185 plus shipping. SASE for inventory to: Magazines, PO Box 20013, Bakersfield, CA 93390. E-mail: tvalenti@khsd.k12.ca.us

VAMPIRELLA #1 $150, #2 $75, #5 $60, #16 $35, #20 $30 or all for $300. Very nice. E-mail: spike3@bright.net or 740-983-2486.

SALE: 15% off my price list according Overstreet PG. Orders must be $10+ after discount. Call for magazine titles and/ or SASE list info. Stacy 718-984-4847.

SPORTS, YEARBOOKS, downbeat, song magazines, science fiction and fantasy, western, etc. 1930s-1970s. Lists 50¢ per category. Ken Mitchell, 710 Conacher Dr., Willowdale, Ontario, Canada M2M 3N6.

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VAMPIRELLA #1-#15, #25, #26. Average shape NM. Beautiful set. $750 (about half Guide). 414-744-4912, Greg Krolikowski, 406 W. Bottsford Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53207.

VAVAVOOM! JEST 9/41 Mint P/C $50; Point 5/54 Ekberg inside $15; Show 3/56 Bardot $20; BB Story PB $30; Dolce Vita PB $35. Cliff 303-424-8762.

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BIZARRE THRILLS #1, 1977 Paragon Publications, Phantom Lady, bondage cover, NM, $22.50 ppd. Adults only. D. Carey, 393 Verdugo Way, Upland, CA 91786.

"STARLIFE" AUG. 1959 Fair cover: Dwayne Hickman, Tuesday Weld, other girls, $15. Jim Burke, 61 Parker St., Freehold, NJ 07728.

FAMOUS MONSTERS! #41, 47, 54, 57, 60, 63, 81, 106, $10 each. #43, 68, 95, 105, 117, 118, $15 each. #92 $20. #114 $50. 214-388-1317.

4451 MAGAZINES, WANTED

COMIC BOOK Marketplace #1 to #23 wanted in near mint. Mad #3 Spring 1998 reprints #7, 8, 9. Calvin Slobodian, 74 Waterloo, Brandon, Manitoba, Canada R7B 3W7. 204-728-4337.

COMICS BUYERS Guides; frantically, desperatly, searching, looking and just generally going nuts trying to locate any CBG's from June to August of 1989. Any condition. Please help me! Joseph Serpico, 325 Brookfield Ave., Staten Island, NY 10308. 718-317-9876, e-mail: serpi@earthlink.net

WANTED: SCANLAN'S Monthly August 1970; Atlantic Monthly February 1950; Pic, March 13, 1945. Cochran, PO Box 242, Planetarium Station, New York, NY 10024-0242.

SMARM MAGAZINE wanted: any issue in any condition, fanzines that feature Gold Key artists. Chris Rumsey, PO Box 114, Bessie, OK 73622.

COMICS REVUE back issues. Most issues needed. Send lists/ prices to: Peter Gallo, 107 Suffield Street, Agawam, MA 01001.

GIRLIE MAGS wanted from the 1950s to mid-70s. Adam, Modern Man, all titles Hustler, Penthouse and Playboy. bill Megyery, 1733A North Larrabee, Chicago, IL 60614.

PRE-1980 WRESTLING magazines, whole and complete only! High grade preferred. E-mail: ctick@aol.com or call 9-5 EST 614-267-4560. Chris Ticknor, 3400 Eisenhower Rd., Columbus, OH 43224.

PHILIP K. Dick stories from Amazing, Galaxy, IF, Fantasy and Science Fiction, Imagination, Fantastic Universe, etc. Don Walsh, 323 Buchanan St., Alexandria, VA 22314. 703-548-5742.

"WIZARD" BACK issue wanted with Alex Ross "Justice League of America" (poster) last year? Also "Kingdom Come" slipcased Edition. Brian Postman, 238 E. 24th St. #2A, NYC 10010.

WANTED: EERIE #17, 33, 41, 47, 48, 51, 59, 77, 125, 136, Av. 72, in NM-M. Andrew Steven, C/O Ian's 1151 2nd Ave., NYC, NY 10021. 212-979-9205.

BRIDGE WORLD Magazine looking for pre-1970 issue. Contact: Len Helfgott, P.O. Box 502, Bergenfield, NJ 07621. 201-837-7577.

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LOST IN Space (movie) video release booklet $3; Who Goes There 1955 paperback VG+ $5; Donovan's Brain paperback $3: Polwort, POB 5152, St. Louis, MO 63139.

V STICKERS: Set of 4 $2.50 ppd. Marc Singer 5x7 color photo signed $20. More SF. Cynthia Case, 11324 Knollridge Ct. #3, Indianapolis, IN 46229.

ENSLAVED LEIA fans... Vargo's sexy slave Leia cover of Darkside Magazine's Omega issue will have you enucleating $4. Monolith Graphics, 1171 Pomona, Cleveland, OH 44121.

LOST IN Space motorized robot, mint in illustrated photo box, 196, Remco #760, works with complete instructions, for $1,200. Rogofsky, Box 107, Glen Oaks, NY 11004.

STAR TREK Tech Manual, original 1st printing, $100 OBO. In great condition. Jim Ryan, 4860 Bluesky Drive, Castle Rock, CO 80104. jr3rd@worldnet.att.net

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But I Digress

From Page 122

our world. *Que sera sera.*

Also, as opposed to Superman's graven-in-stone existence, Supergirl's young life *changed*. She got adoptive parents and a new name and wound up revealing her identity to them. Superman went public with her existence, as well, introducing her to the world, once he'd decided she was ready. Readers got a sense of growth and development —

— and then she foundered. With lack of solid growth and consistent vision, Supergirl started simply to be — there. And that was all.

Perhaps that was part of the reason Supergirl never really "flew" as a solo star. Aside from being eager to please, she wound up having no real identity outside of Superman. Once she was ready to fly on her own — she plummeted. Her forays into her own title were marked by lack of reader interest and uneven stories, as writers sought ways to make her distinct from her more famous cousin.

Particularly memorable was the complete loss of her powers and the substitution of an exo-skeleton, plus an array of costumes that would have made Janet van Dyne envious in terms of their variety.

Somehow, out from under Superman's wing, she just wasn't that interesting. We were rooting for her, certainly — but we weren't sure what we were rooting for her to *do*. We knew that we didn't want her to die, of course. We just wanted her to appeal to us in that same cousin/kid sister/first crush way that she had intrigued us during her earliest appearances. But, as Supergirl grew up, she grew away from us as, well, leaving behind whatever claims to uniqueness (personality wise) she may have had and became little more than, well — a female Superman. She was at best a redundancy, at worst an annoyance.

Who better to target for a dramatic hero's death than Supergirl? Well, maybe The Flash, who had become the world's fastest man trapped in the world's slowest story, namely his endless "trial," which effectively killed the series. But The Flash was quickly and easily replaced with Wally West and was instantly revitalized. "Supergirl" was a bit more problematic; no one could just step in and take her place.

But when Supergirl did return, it seemed to fans like a massive tease and cheat. In name and general appearance she was Supergirl; in reality, she was a protoplasmic blob from a "pocket universe" (whatever the hell that is) that, in subsequent continuity, never existed in the first place. She'd gone from living in Superman's shadow to living in his shape (when she impersonated Clark Kent).

When I took on the series, I was all too aware that any number of fans would just as soon have seen Kara return and take up her mantle once more. But that wasn't going to happen; DC wasn't going to dilute Superman's status again. Still, I wanted to make the fans feel more at home. So I gave her as many of the exterior accoutrements of Kara's former life as I possibly could. I gave her parents and a secret identity of Linda Danvers, in a small town (called "Leesburg," in deference to Linda Lee), and a boyfriend named Dick Malverne — and put Stanhope College nearby. Some fans thought I was being "in-jokey." Nah. I just wanted to make the old readers feel at home as best I could.

And her abysmal taste in men continued unabated. This grand tradition was carried over near the beginning of her re-creation, as she hooked up with, of all people, Luthor. I mean, good Lord, the only way Supergirl goes more romantically wrong than that is if she has Darkseid's love child. I decided to maintain that spirit of questionable judgment by having her get involved with a demon from hell, followed by involving both her identities in a four-way love triangle with (honest to God) a super-powered horse being whose double identity is a randy lesbian.

It took me 10 issues to spell out the truth of what was going on with Linda and Andy and Supergirl and Comet (a name taken from her old Superhorse pet-paramour). Can you blame me? You don't drop one like that on the readers over the course of a two-parter.

Rumors in the hopper indicate that DC may bring back the entire multiverse concept, effectively undoing the last vestiges of *Crisis*. I wouldn't have thought it likely, but I suppose anything is possible. If that's the case, then who knows? Kara may return.

And have I got a guy for her ...

Peter David, writer of stuff, can be written to at To Be Continued Inc., PO Box 239, Bayport, NY 11705.

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The advertisers' index is provided as a reader service. Occasional last-minute changes may result in ads appearing on pages other than those listed here. The publisher assumes no liability for omissions or errors.

GENERAL INFORMATION

A. PAYMENT: Ads must be accompanied by payment. You may pay with a check, money order, or credit card.

B. CREDIT CARDS: We will accept the following credit cards: VISA, MasterCard, American Express, Novus.

C. DEADLINE: For all advertising is 4:00 p.m. each Tuesday, unless otherwise stated on deadline card.

D. TERMS: Cash with copy only. All advertisers must provide information for the confidential use of the publisher should questions arise.

E. CONTRACT RATES are available for 6, 13, 26, or 52 consecutive issues. Contract rates apply to fulfillment of contract items. Cancellation of a contract by the advertiser allows the publisher to reinvoice covered ads at the earned rate. This rate card is a part of the advertising contract.

F. MINORS are required to furnish a statement of responsibility from their parent or guardian before their advertising can be accepted.

G. ERRORS: Typewritten copy is recommended. The publisher is not responsible for errors resulting from long-hand or illegible copy, or changes submitted by telephone. The publisher's liability for any error shall not exceed the cost of the space occupied by that error.

H. LAYOUT and design services are provided by Krause Publications for advertisers who do not submit camera-ready copy. Due to the creative and subjective nature of these services, credit will not be allowed for conceptual variations.

I. GRADING: Items offered in any ad must be properly described as to condition, conforming to the standards set forth in Comics Buyer's Guide Price Guide. Advertisers may also exercise the option of grading offerings by applying a unique personal system, providing the standards applied are detailed in the ad to avoid confusion.

J. RETURN PRIVILEGE: Except as otherwise specified in any ad, an advertiser must accept the return of any merchandise postmarked within ten working days of its receipt by a customer.

K. P.O. BOX ADS are allowed, but the permanent home address, phone number and place of business of the advertiser must be filed with the publisher before advertisements may be printed.

L. SPECIAL PAGE POSITIONS are available at a premium, inquire for details.

M. ADVERTISING AGENCIES: There are no agency discounts.

N. CAMERA READY display ads qualify for a 15% discount. Copy must be ready for camera without additional paste-up or film work required. No charge for reproductions, enlargements or mail response key change. Classified Display, Comics Trader, Collector's Showcase and classified word ads do not qualify for the camera ready discount.

O. SPACE RESERVATIONS available for camera ready ads only. Must be made prior to ad deadline. Reserved space must be paid for even if ad does not arrive on time.

P. PRE-PRINTED INSERTS are available in Comics Buyer's Guide. Inquire for additional information and technical specifications.

Q. CIRCULATION is throughout the United States and Canada by subscription and single copy sales by agents in shops and other outlets.

R. PROOF OF PUBLICATION: Tear sheets of new display ads are mailed to those advertisers requesting this service. We regret we cannot provide this service to classified advertisers.

S. NOTE: All advertising orders are accepted subject to the terms and provisions of the current rate card. Krause Publications, Inc. reserves the right to decline advertising or suspend advertising privileges for such periods of time as in its discretion it sees fit, for any reason, whatsoever, irrespective of the validity of the reasons for such declination or suspension. The forwarding of an order is construed as acceptance of all rates and conditions in effect at the time the advertising is submitted. The publisher will not be bound by any conditions, printed or otherwise, appearing on any order for advertising space, billing instructions or copy instructions which conflict with its policies. Advertisers and advertising agencies assume liability for all content (including text representation and illustrations) of advertisements printed, and also assumes responsibility of any claims arising therefrom made against the publisher. It is the advertiser's or agency's responsibility to obtain appropriate releases on any item or individual pictured in their advertising. All agreements are subject to strikes, accidents, acts of God, or other contingencies beyond the publisher's control. The publisher reserves the right to edit any advertising copy to conform with its standard advertising policies, and to reject any ad which in its opinion is unethical or objectional for any reason.

SEND ADS AND PAYMENT TO:
COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE
Advertising
700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990

COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE
700 East State Street
Iola, Wisconsin 54990
(715) 445-2214
FAX#(715) 445-4087
TELEX#55-6461
(Krause Publ.)

Advertising Deadlines

AD DEADLINE	NO.	ISSUE	AD DEADLINE	NO.	ISSUE
Tues., Oct. 6, 1998	1302	Oct. 30, 1998	Tues., Oct. 27, 1998	1305	Nov. 20, 1998
Tues., Oct. 13, 1998	1303	Nov. 6, 1998	Tues., Nov. 3, 1998	1306	Nov. 27, 1998
Tues., Oct. 20, 1998	1304	Nov. 13, 1998	Tues. Nov. 10, 1998	1307	Dec. 4, 1998

DISPLAY ADVERTISING

(Cost per ad per issue: ads must run consecutively)

AD SIZE	1 ISSUE	6 ISSUES	13 ISSUES	26 ISSUES	52 ISSUES
A. 2 col. x 2-5/8" (4-7/8" x 2-5/8")	$100.00	$98.00	$96.00	$92.00	$84.00
B. 2 col. x 5-3/8" (4-7/8" x 5-3/8") or 4 col. x 2-5/8" (10" x 2-5/8")	$189.00 / $189.00	$185.00 / $185.00	$181.00 / $181.00	$174.00 / $174.00	$159.00 / $159.00
C. 2 col. x 11" (4-7/8" x 11") or 4 col. x 5-3/8" (10" x 5-3/8")	$294.00 / $294.00	$288.00 / $288.00	$282.00 / $282.00	$270.00 / $270.00	$247.00 / $247.00
D. 4 col. x 11" (10" x 11")	$530.00	$519.00	$509.00	$488.00	$445.00

CLASSIFIED DISPLAY

(Cost per ad: ads must run consecutively to earn contract discounts.)

AD SIZE	1 ISSUE	6 ISSUES	13 ISSUES	26 ISSUES	52 ISSUES
1. 1 col. x 1" (2-1/4" x 1")	$20.00	$19.50	$19.00	$18.00	$17.00
2. 1 col. x 2" (2-1/4" x 2")	$29.50	$29.00	$28.00	$27.00	$25.00
3. 1 col. x 3" (2-1/4" x 3")	$38.00	$37.00	$36.00	$35.00	$32.00

CLASSIFIED WORD ADS:

Our "Classified" ads are heavily read. Base rates are 40¢ per word with discounts for multiple issues. Please print and punctuate - we are not responsible for error due to long-hand and illegible copy. For more information see classified ad form in the classified section. Credit card customers can place word ads TOLL FREE - Call 1-800-942-0673. (This is for classified word ads only.)

UNIT ADVERTISING:

A. COLLECTORS SHOWCASE

Collectors Showcase Units are 3-1/4" wide x 1-5/8" high and can be bought in multiples. All typesetting is done by Krause Publications and is included in the price.

Cost per ad per issue: ads must run consecutively to earn contract discounts

1 Issue	6 Issues	13 Issues	26 Issues	52 Issues
$30.00	$29.00	$28.00	$27.00	$25.00

B. COMICS TRADER ADS

"No-frills" advertising with a price to match. Design your own ad - just type your ad clearly on an 8-1/2"w x 8-1/2"h sheet of paper. We will reduce your Trader ad to fit a 1/9 page space (3-1/4"w x 3-1/4"h). Super Traders should be typed on an 8-1/2"w x 8-1/2"h sheet of paper which will be reduced to fit a 5" x 5" space.

Regular Trader

(Cost per ad per issue: ads must run consecutively to earn contract discounts. Limit 6 Trader spaces per page per advertiser.)

1 Issue	6 Issues	13 Issues	26 Issues	52 Issues
$41.00	$40.00	$39.00	$38.00	$34.00

Super Trader

(Cost per ad per issue: ads must run consecutively to earn contract discounts. Limit 2 Super Trader spaces per advertiser per page.)

1 Issue	6 Issues	13 Issues	26 Issues	52 Issues
$110.00	$108.00	$106.00	$101.00	$92.00

C. COMICS STRIPS

Comics Strip ads are 10"w x 2⅝"h and are reserved for publishers promoting their comic titles.

1 Issue	4 Issues
$85.00	$300.00

D. RETAILER DIRECTORY ..... $3.50 per issue

Leads fans to your cash register! List your store name, address, phone number and 15 words of description. Sold in 26 and 52 week increments. It's targeted more to the comics buff than the yellow pages - and it's more cost effective. If you sell COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE in your store, we will publish your listing in bold face type at no extra charge.

ADVERTISING REQUIREMENTS

A completed reference form must be in our confidential files before any buy, sell or trade ad can be placed. See below. Minors are required to furnish a statement of responsibility from their parents or guardian before their advertising can be accepted.

Payment must accompany an advertisement and must be in the form of a personal check drawn on U.S., Canadian or Mexican bank; money orders; international money orders; cashier's checks; or with your VISA, MasterCard, American Express or NOVUS credit card. Send your credit card number, expiration date, and the name on the card, along with permission to charge the card for your ad, with your advertising copy.

REFERENCE FORM

COMPANY NAME _____
STREET ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____
PHONE NO. _____
SOCIAL SECURITY # _____
TYPE OF BUSINESS _____
☐ CORPORATION
☐ CO PARTNERSHIP ☐ LIMITED PARTNERSHIP
NO. OF YEARS ESTABLISHED _____ ☐ INDIVIDUAL PROPRIETOR

PRINCIPAL OWNERS - STOCKHOLDERS - PARTNERS - OFFICERS OF COMPANY

NAME _____
MAILING ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____
TITLE _____

TRADE REFERENCES

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____
PHONE _____

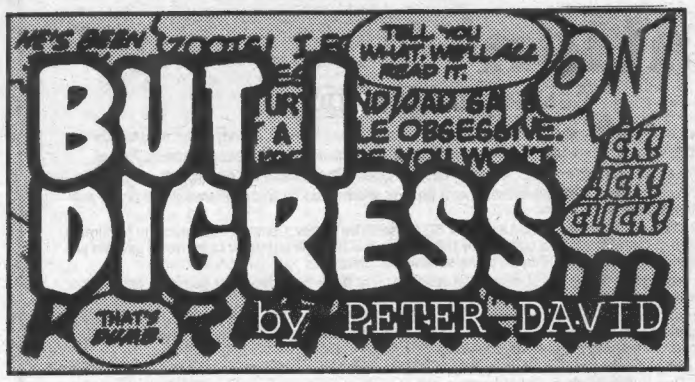
BANK REFERENCE

BANK NAME _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____
PHONE _____
BANKING OFFICIAL _____

I (we) hereby authorize Krause Publications and/or its credit agent to investigate the references herein or statements or other data obtained from me or any other person pertaining to my credit and financial responsibility. I understand that it is Krause Publications' policy to require cash in advance for all advertising until credit has been established or approved.

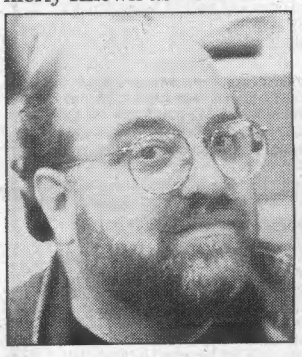
Further, I (we), the undersigned, will be held personally responsible and promise to pay promptly within 15 days of the billing date for all advertising debts incurred by the above named business and owing to Krause Publications.

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE(S) OF APPLICANT(S). _____



"Bring back Kara."

It's probably the most-repeated (if I were cynical or in a bad mood, I'd probably say "tired") refrain that I hear, as the current writer of the Character Currently Known as Supergirl (and Formerly Known as Kara Zor-El.)



Even those people who like the character's current incarnation have their first loyalty to Superman's cousin, who was wiped out of existence during *Crisis on Infinite Earths*. I'd say "unceremoniously wiped out," but there was more ceremony, pomp, and circumstance around her demise than one usually sees at the average college graduation. There are some fans who would happily see Matrix/Supergirl vanish from the DC universe in a burst of flame, if it meant Kara's return. There are others who sufficiently like her current incarnation, plus supporting cast, to want to keep her around, even if Kara came back — but simply call her something else other than "Supergirl" so that the name could be returned to the previous owner.

"Was there ever any character, anywhere, who had more miserable taste in men than Supergirl?"

Yes, yes, I know, Kara wasn't the "original" Supergirl. There was another one in an earlier story who was a one-shot appearance. And, yes, I also know there's a "Kara" who showed up in a DC/Dark Horse crossover whose presence remains a constant source of interest to fans. But, for the purpose of this dissertation, I'll confine all my references to that Silver Age pixie who popped out of a fallen space ship and announced her (obvious) presence to a startled Superman.

No longer unique. The advent of Supergirl was one of the first steps in the de-uniquing (there's a new word) of Superman. When something is successful (as Superman unquestionably was), there is a compulsion to try to imitate that success by imitating its originator. That's where spin-offs and sequels come from. It's not so much a creative impulse as it is a corporate one. Thou Shalt Create New Books and Characters Who Will Sell — and the way to improve the chances of their selling is by creating parallels or tie-ins to established, proven properties.

By the time the 1960s rolled around, Superman had gone from being the last survivor of the doomed planet Krypton ("That's what we get for naming the place after an element!" said an annoyed Jor-El in a *Mad* spoof) to being one of a crowd of refugees on par with Boat People. There were Superman, Supergirl, Krypto the Superdog, the entire bottled city of Kandor, and even the Phantom Zone villains.

But, as Superman's popularity diminished over the years, sales dropping precipitously so that the Superman family was among the lower-selling DC's titles, the feeling seemed to be that the imitation — rather than being the sincerest form of flattery — had cost Big Blue. He was no longer unique, and that was suddenly a bad thing. Something had to be done. The super-hangers-on had piled onto the Superman legend so thickly that you couldn't see the original guy any more, and they had to be scraped away like barnacles.

Just as Supergirl's advent was emblematic of Superman becoming one of the gang, Supergirl's demise was one of the first steps in transforming The Man of Steel back into the Last Survivor of Krypton. And she was done away with about as comprehensively as any character could be obliterated. She was wiped right out of existence. Not only was she dead, but, thanks to rebooted continuity, she had never lived in the first place. Fans howled, fans raged.

What they did *not* do, of course, was support her from a sales point of view in the first place.

In terms of sales success, Supergirl was right up there with Hawkman and Aquaman as someone who had a following, but never sufficiently large *enough* to wield any sort of sales clout. No one ever seemed to know quite what to do with her. So why is it that a character who was, at best, a back-up character and, at worst, a cheap female knock-off created primarily to cash in on Superman's popularity — why and how has she retained such a hold on the hearts and minds of fans?

There is, of course, the simple answer: All you have to do to get fans to want something is to take it away from them. Some fans expressed boredom with Chris Claremont on *X-Men* — until he forcibly had to part company with the series. Now, rumors of Claremont back on the mutant titles is enough to kick the salivary glands of fans everywhere into overdrive. When Jean DeWolff was knocked off in one of my earliest Spider-Man stories, we were deluged by letters from people claiming that she was their favorite character — even though her more-than-a-year absence from the titles had garnered virtually no inquiries whatsoever as to her whereabouts. Both characters and creators who are taken for granted are suddenly coveted, once the fans don't have them to take for granted any more.

But it may be more complicated than that.

Part of it is that Kara made a terrific first impression. She was young, naive, eager-to-learn — and, most enticingly, she was a secret. Rather than simply announce her presence to the world, Superman opted to keep her under wraps. Since Superman was apprehensive about Supergirl's existence being exposed and was concerned about how she would interact with the unfamiliar planet's population, he naturally did the one thing that made no sense at all: He plopped her in an orphanage, providing maximum danger of her blowing her identity, since it hinged on her ability to interact smoothly with a species she had never met — and she had to keep that damned wig on.

Why she needed a wig at all was also questionable. Why not just let her walk around with her normal blonde hair hanging out? No one was going to look at her and say, "Hey, you're Supergirl!" considering that Supergirl didn't officially exist. If, for some reason she needed a disguise, what was wrong with tying her hair back and wearing glasses? You never saw Clark wearing a wig. And if, later, Superman chose (as he eventually did) to "out" her, she could have worn a mask to conceal her identity at that point in the event that glasses weren't deemed sufficient. Go figure.

Secret appeal. The thing is, since Kara was a secret, that made her mightily appealing to the readers. We were all in on the secret, as well. Not only that, but her adventures were necessarily smaller-scale than Superman's. As opposed to grand cosmic epics, Supergirl's adventures were more intimate — and often tests of her ingenuity, since she couldn't make any sort of public appearance. Right at the start, she deemed herself as Midvale's "guardian angel" (a term that became literal, since I started on the character's new incarnation.)

Plus, Kara seemed so gosh-darned eager to please. To please not only Superman, but *us*. Her every appearance seemed to cry out, "Like me, like me!" It was hard not to. It would have been like clubbing a baby seal. This perky blonde, in her little ice-skating, blue-skirted outfit, was a combination of every kid sister you ever had to look out for and every girl in class you ever had a crush on.

And talk about crushes — good God, was there ever any character, anywhere, who had more miserable taste in men than Supergirl? She didn't just encounter the standard, run-of-the-mill jerks in the dating pool — no, not our girl. Like mosquitos to a fat farm, the most inappropriate mates in the galaxy swarmed to her. If there was a fugitive from a space prison in the area or an escaped Phantom Zone villain or someone on the run from the future or some guy hiding from the past or a disguised horse — they zeroed in on Supergirl, and she loved them all. And they used her or loved her, depending upon their disposition.

Perhaps that's what drew us to her, on an emotional level. As she drifted from one loser beau to the next, we couldn't help but wish that, somehow, we could enter the comic book and treat her right. We wouldn't betray her or trap her or use her for vicious, evil ends.

Heck, even Superman was attracted to her, and not just in a big-brother fashion. In one memorable story, Supergirl set out to find the ideal mate for her cousin, without much success. When she sorrowfully informed Superman of her failure in the matchmaking department, she was astounded, when he chucked her under the chin and told her that, if he were on the lookout for Mrs. Superman (his lack of interest, I'm sure, likely coming as the ideal piece of news to Lois Lane), as far as he was concerned, he'd look no further than Kara herself (and, boy, did she look jazzed when he said that.)

Readers got the impression that, all things being equal, he'd gladly have wedded her on the spot. And, indeed, if Larry Niven's "Man of Steel, Woman of Kleenex" analysis of Superman's sex life is anything to go by, Supergirl might, indeed, be one of the few females on Earth who could have handled a night of ardor with the caped one. (For that matter, a *non*-super male might not have much more luck withstanding a fling with Supergirl. Her super-legs wrapped around him could easily crush him in the throes of passion, to say nothing of other potentially lethal spasms.)

However, since cousins couldn't marry under Kryptonian law, such a union was out of the question. Considering that Krypton no longer existed, except in the shape of assorted hues of rock, such strictures might have been tossed by the wayside — particularly if it meant the potential propagation of the Kryptonian race. But this was back in the days when Superman never met a rule he didn't obey. Supergirl subsequently found an older, dead ringer for herself to match up with Kal-El, but she couldn't survive on

(Continues on Page 120)

BAGS Unlimited INC

7 CANAL ST., DEPT. C, ROCHESTER, NY 14608

Use our
100% VIRGIN POLYETHYLENE
bags for the most
ECONOMICAL, ARCHIVAL STORAGE
of your collectables.

FREE PHONE CALL CATALOG
1-800-767-BAGS

NEW COMIC 6-7/8 x 10-3/8
Fits 1973 - Current Comics

	2 Mil	3 Mil	RESEALABLE 3 Mil
100	4.35	5.65	8.00
500	19.35	24.00	34.90
1000	28.45	33.75	58.00
5000	124.70	152.45	273.00
PCode:	SNC2	SNC3	SNC3R

REGULAR MARVEL 7-1/8 x 10-3/8
Fits 1962 - 1972 Comics

	2 Mil	3 Mil	RESEALABLE 3 Mil
100	4.35	5.65	8.00
500	19.35	24.00	35.90
1000	28.45	33.75	59.65
5000	124.70	152.45	273.00
PCode:	SMAR2	SMAR3	SMAR3R

DELL & SILVER AGE 7-1/2 x 10-3/8
Fits 1950 - 1962 Comics

	2 Mil	3 Mil
100	4.85	6.20
500	19.80	24.55
1000	35.50	41.10
5000	158.90	189.30
PCode:	SDSA2	SDSA3

GOLDEN AGE COMICS 7-7/8 x 10-3/8
Fits Pre-1950 Comics

	2 Mil	3 Mil
100	5.15	7.10
500	20.10	27.90
1000	36.45	47.70
5000	170.00	220.70
PCode:	SGA2	SGA3

MAGAZINES

	STANDARD 8-5/8 x 11-1/8		LARGE 8-7/8 x 11-1/8	
	2 Mil	3 Mil	2 Mil	3 Mil
100	7.25	9.35	8.00	10.30
500	28.35	34.00	31.10	37.40
1000	43.90	55.85	48.20	61.45
PCode:	SMAG2	SMAG3	SMAGL2	SMAGL3

LIFE MAGAZINE

	REGULAR 10-1/4 x 12-1/4		LARGE 10-7/8 X 14-1/4	
	2 Mil	3 Mil	2 Mil	3 Mil
50	4.90	6.70	5.95	7.60
100	8.65	9.30	9.20	11.00
500	37.50	41.90	40.20	48.45
1000	59.75	77.55	66.45	86.40
PCode:	SLMR2	SLMR3	SLMLC2	SLMLC3

TABLOID (No Flap)

	REGULAR 12 x 19		LARGE 14-1/4 x 19	
	2 Mil	3 Mil	2 Mil	3 Mil
50	8.90	11.10	9.20	13.25
100	12.40	16.45	13.55	19.40
500	47.05	64.35	51.75	75.95
1000	89.30	122.20	98.30	144.30
PCode:	STAB2	STAB3	STABL2	STABL3

ORIGINAL ART (No Flap)

	REGULAR 10-1/2 x 19	LARGE 11-1/2 x 19
	3 Mil	3 Mil
100	12.90	14.20
500	49.55	54.90
1000	93.90	104.40
PCode:	SOAS	SOAL

Note: Bags have a 1 1/2" flap unless noted.

COMIC DIVIDER
7 3/8 x 10 7/8

PLASTIC		CORRUGATED	
		50	$9.25
25	$18.00	100	15.30
50	28.75	500	58.30
100	50.00	1,000	79.30+Frt
500	225.00	2,500	150.45+Frt
1,000	340.00+Frt	5,000	285.80+Frt
Prod. Code:	DCOMP		DCOM

.030 gauge White Polystyrene. Fits in our Comic Boxes with the lid on.

275 lb. Test Corrugated material. INDEXED and WHITE on one side.

COMIC BOOK MAILER
7 1/2 x 10 3/4 x 1 1/4
Holds 12-14 Comics

10	$8.50
25	16.00
50	27.00
100	43.50
250	90.00+Frt

Prod. Code MCOM14
Made from 200 lb. Test Corrugated material

BACKING BOARDS

- ECONOMY – .030" Thick non Acid-Free Grade. White on one side. For Intermediate Storage.
- INTERMEDIATE – .028" Thick Acid-Free, White on both sides. For Long Term Storage.
- SUPERIOR – .040" Thick Acid Free, White all the way thru with 3% Alkaline Buffer. For Indefinite Term Storage.

DESCRIPTION / SIZE	PRODUCT CODE	• GRADE	GAUGE (in)	PRICE PER QUANTITY 25	50	100	500	1000
NEW COMIC 6-11/16 x 10-3/8	KCB30N	ECONOMY	0.030	2.90	5.35	8.25	29.10	53.75
	KAF28N	INTERMEDIATE	0.028	5.90	10.55	16.50	66.65	117.50
	KAF40N	SUPERIOR	0.040	10.30	19.10	33.30	144.70	251.80
REGULAR MARVEL 6-15/16 x 10-3/8	KCB30R	ECONOMY	0.030	2.90	5.35	8.25	29.10	53.75
	KAF28R	INTERMEDIATE	0.028	5.90	10.55	16.50	66.65	117.50
	KAF40R	SUPERIOR	0.040	10.30	19.10	33.30	144.70	251.80
DELL & SILVER AGE 7-3/16 x 10-3/8	KCB30DSA	ECONOMY	0.030	3.55	5.55	8.75	35.45	60.00
	KAF28DSA	INTERMEDIATE	0.028	7.10	11.25	17.40	70.85	124.60
	KAF40DSA	SUPERIOR	0.040	11.00	19.35	36.65	153.50	266.85
GOLDEN AGE 7-11/16 x 10-3/8	KCB30GA	ECONOMY	0.030	3.80	5.90	9.25	37.25	63.55
	KAF28GA	INTERMEDIATE	0.028	7.60	11.75	18.50	74.45	131.65
	KAF40GA	SUPERIOR	0.040	11.85	21.50	37.50	162.70	282.95

STORAGE & DISPLAY BOXES

These boxes are stronge enough to stand on. They are 275 lb. test corrugated and come with a white finish. For EXTRA STRENGTH our LONG COMIC boxes have four thickness of cardboard on the ends where the handle holes are. Our Boxes are easy to assemble and need no tape or glue. All boxes come with 3" Deep Cover. BAGS UNLIMITED Boxes are the standard of the industry. DON'T SETTLE FOR SECOND BEST!

PAPERBACK
7-3/4 x 4-3/4 x 15
Holds 20 3/4"wide paperbacks.

2	$9.50
5	19.40
10	33.65
25	66.65
50	116.35
100	173.30+Frt

Prod. Code XP20

MAGAZINE
9 x 11-1/2 x 15
Holds up to 150 Magazines. Also use for Golden Age Comic Books or folded One Sheets.

2	$9.50
5	19.40
10	33.65
25	66.65
50	116.35
100	173.30+Frt

Prod. Code XMAG150

LIFE MAGAZINE
11-1/2 x 14-3/4 x 15-3/4
Holds 60 - 65 Life Magazines.

2	$11.55
5	25.10
25	92.55
50	161.60
100	235.00+Frt

Prod. Code XLM65

COMPACT COMIC
7-3/4 x 11 x 15
Holds up to 200 Comics

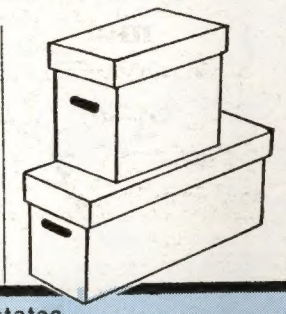
2	$9.40
5	21.05
10	32.65
25	67.45
50	100.00+Frt
100	180.00+Frt

Prod. Code XCC200

LONG COMIC
7-3/4 x 11 x 26
Holds up to 300 Comics

2	$11.20
5	25.55
10	48.20
25	106.40
50	141.50+Frt
100	250.00+Frt

Prod. Code XLC300



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Available in the October issue of *PREVIEWS*!

Be sure to request these toys now from your favorite comic shop! Available only in limited release!

PREVIEWS EXCLUSIVES

STAR WARS LUKE SKYWALKER IN BACTA TANK STATUE

A Previews Exclusive! A super cool limited edition statue of Luke Skywalker recuperating after his near-death encounter with the dreaded Wampa!

- Exquisitely detailed, hand-painted cold-cast resin diorama!
- Features Luke suspended in bacta tank, and medical droid Onetoobee (1-2B)!
- Flip a switch, and the bacta tank is cast in an eerie blue glow!
- Limited to 1,500 worldwide, boxed with a Certificate of Authenticity!

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BABYLON 5 6" ACTION FIGURES SERIES IV

Here's the fourth series of very cool, exquisitely sculpted 6" action figures—available only through *Toys R Us* and *Previews*! This series features:

- *PSI Cop Bester*
- *Ambassador Vlur/Nhur* of the Pal'Ma'Ra
- *Ambassador She'Lah* of the Gaim Intelligence
- *Ambassador Juphar Trkider* of the Drazi Freehold
- *Captain Elizabeth Lochley*—available only through Previews!

These figures each come with a spaceship miniature, and feature different packaging and are not available through Toys R Us!
Also look for two special *Previews Exclusive* paint variants!

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LADY DEATH PREVIEWS EXCLUSIVE 12" ACTION FIGURE

A Previews Exclusive! Moore Action Collectibles presents this exclusively decorated 12" figure!

- Based on the 6" sculptures by Clayburn Moore!
- Features a metallic blue outfit and features a real cloth cloak!
- This extremely limited figure comes in special collector's packaging!

29.95

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SUPERMAN ANIMATED BIZARRO & METALLO FIGURES

PREVIEWS Shared Exclusive

A Previews North American Exclusive! Here they are! Two of the coolest figures previously offered only in an assortment in June's *Previews*—now available for individual sale:

- *Bizarro* (with Car Axle and super-"tantrum" action)!
- *Metallo* (with Jet Cycle accessory that flips over to act as a BIG gun!)!

Each comes in blister card packaging and are available in North America only from *Previews*!

13.00 Each Sugg. Retail

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MAC PREVIEWS EXCLUSIVE SIGNED COLLECTOR CLUB CHAOS! FIGURE SET

A Previews Exclusive! From the award-winning Chaos! Action Figure line, comes this set of Chaos! Premium figures signed by the master sculptor himself, Clayburn Moore. This special set of three figures includes:

- *Glow-in-the-Dark Evil Ernie*!
- *Purgatori Metallic*!
- *Glow-in-the-Dark Lady Demon*!

99.00

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LOOK FOR THESE EXCLUSIVE ITEMS ALSO IN THIS ISSUE!

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